

ADVENTURING Not-so-roughing it on St. John

By John Rasmus

IF YOU really want to get away from the crowds in the Caribbean, you can do what a couple of friends and I did a few years ago: We hired a boat and captain, had him sail us out to a little coconut-palmed desert island — yes, they do exist — and had ourselves marooned for a few days. It was just us and our camping gear, some Cruzan rum and a copy of "Heart of Darkness."

Or so we thought. As we discovered come nightfall, about a million Norway rats were there too, gnawing for a little variety in their diet, such as whatever happened to be inside our big

cooler. The next day we got the supplies hoisted up into the trees, strung out our hammocks, and dialed in some mambo music on Radio Havana. But it was a bit Conradian out there. I wouldn't exactly recommend it to everyone.

But I can recommend without hesitation one Caribbean destination that's unspoiled, outdoor-sexy, even rugged — but less rugged than our Isle of Rodents. A little green gem that's mostly undeveloped — and will stay that way — St. John in the US Virgin Islands is surrounded by famous white beaches and an aura of good fortune.

St. John is also fortunate in that cruise boats can't dock in

Cruz Bay, dropping passengers off for a few hours instead of picking them up later in St. Thomas, a 20-minute ferry ride away. The island is certainly worth a whole day: More than half of its 20 square miles is protected by the park service and gives visitors a feel for what the rest of the Caribbean must have been like before high-rise hotels and booming local population.

The hilly interior is forested with scrubby jungle, and the coast road out of Cruz Bay climbs and twists to reveal new stretches of jade water and white beach with every turn. You can snorkel the Trunk Bay underwater trail, take a quick three-mile hike up to snare Danish sugar-

plantation ruins, or spend the day on the beaches near Cinnamon Bay, some of the prettiest in the Caribbean.

If you've got a few days, though, so much the better. You can always stay at the luxurious Caneel Bay Resort, of course, if you book a year or so in advance. And there are a few nice, small places to stay in Cruz Bay. But in keeping with St. John's undeveloped character, two campgrounds, Maho Bay and Cinnamon Bay, are the best way to experience the island comfortably and naturally. Camping at either place requires reservations well in advance, and it isn't cheap, upward of \$70 per night for setups that sleep three or four.

Maho Bay has a private feel to it. Wooden walkways over the vegetation, rather than pathways through it, protect the hillside from erosion. The tented cottages, built on wooden platforms, beat the sandy beach front sites at Cinnamon Bay, and they've all been "renovated" and spruced up since Hugo's winds tore a few down. There's also a commissary and an informal lending library, and local cooks and their families prepare the optional main dinner each night (you must sign up in advance).

The interior of St. John is rugged and hilly, making it perfect for hiking and jeeping. There are more than 20 miles of hiking trails, and jeeps are available in Cruz Bay for about \$55 a day. You can also take a horse-back tour to the old plantation sites and beaches.

On the water, you've got a choice of snorkeling, windsurfing and sailing; rentals and lessons are offered at Maho Bay. Weighted plaques describe the underwater flora and fauna on the underwater snorkeling trail at Trunk Bay, and further out, there are other reefs for more serious diving. Scuba divers can rent equipment or sign up for charters in Cruz Bay. A good all-day diving trip goes to the wreck of the Rhone, a ghostly 19th-century ship now resting in 70 feet of water and home to big groupers and schools of tropical fish. You're allowed to take two lobsters a day from park waters.

The Virgin Islands is also one of the premier no-sweat sailing areas in the world. You can rent your own boat in Cruz Bay or go along with a group on a day sailing trip from Maho Bay. After a few hours out on the water, you'll be ready for a picnic. What you can do is find a little coconut-palmed island, swim to shore with your lunch, and moon yourself for the afternoon. Just get back to ship by nightfall.

Travel Information: Cinnamon Bay Camp, Box 720, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands 00830; (809) 776-6330.



Trunk Bay, St. John: Underwater snorkeling trail, white beaches and aura of good fortune

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A flying team
page 18

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

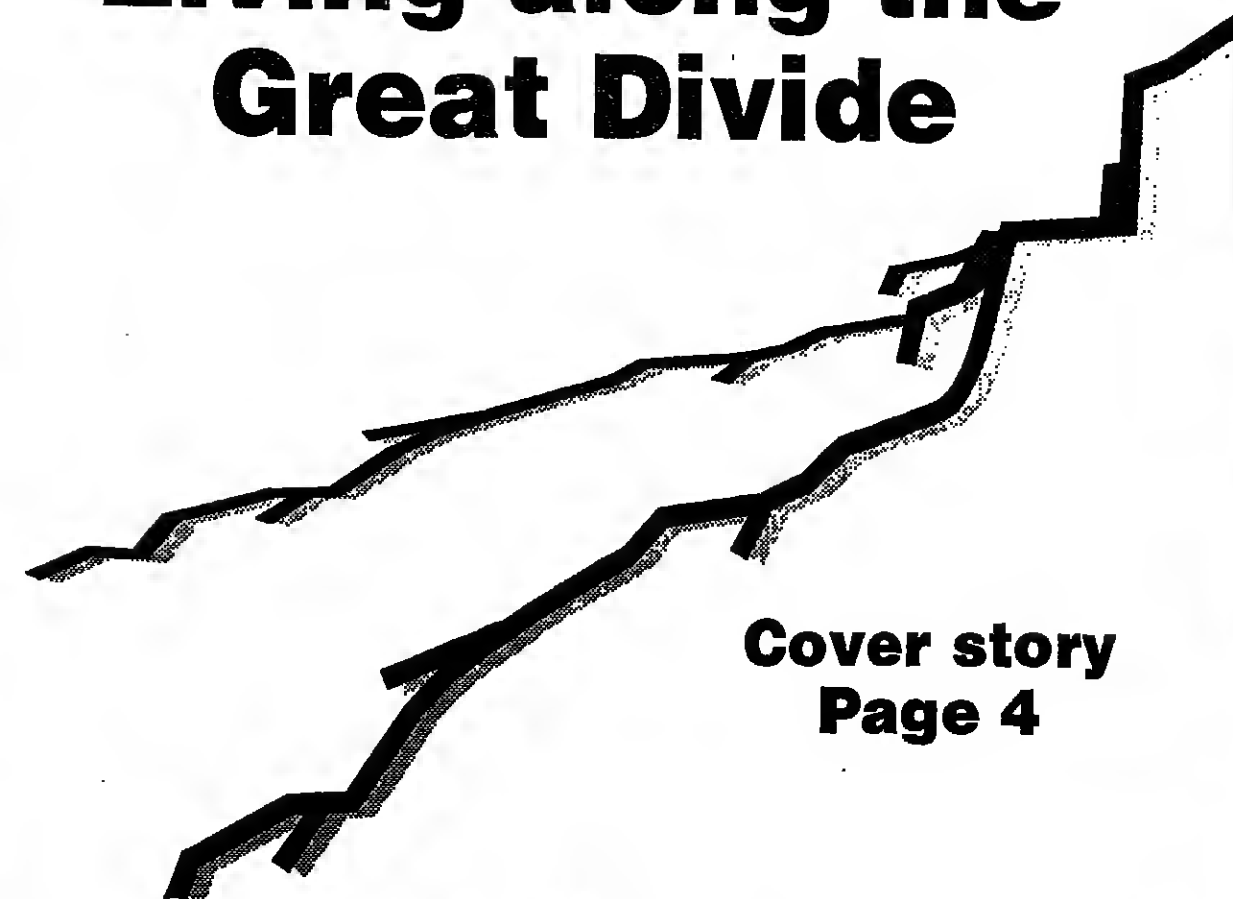
Amman, 28 June—12 July 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol : 1 No :23

EARTHQUAKES

Living along the Great Divide



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Page 4

Upon the Occasion of
EID AL-ADHA



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eid al Adha The Star
extends its best wishes
to His Majesty
King Hussein and the
Jordanian people

Due to the eid holiday The Star will
not appear next Thursday. The next
issue of The Star will be published
on 12 July



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Next Issue (12 July)

The results of The Star's World Cup Competition

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Work begins on Amman-Dead Sea highway

Amman — A ground-breaking ceremony was held Wednesday marking the start of construction upgrading Section III of the Amman-Na'ur-Dead Sea Highway to a four-lane divided road.

Section III is the last strip of the 41-kilometre highway linking Amman, Na'ur and the Dead Sea. The new construction will avoid areas of recurrent landslides on the existing road, particularly near the village of Ad-dasiyah.

The highway, which will cost JD 20 million, is partly financed with a USAID grant of JD 16.75 million.

The new road will eliminate dangerous curves along the 1400 meter drop from the highlands and better accommodate heavy traffic problems which typically occur during the winter. It will also shorten travel time and provide a safer route for trucks delivering agricultural produce to the local market from the Jordan Valley.

Music conservatory students to perform at RCC on Saturday

Amman (Star)—A general group lesson by the students of the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation will be held at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre on Saturday, 30 June from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The objective of this lesson is to publicly present and evaluate the achievements of the students of the National Music Conservatory at the end of the academic year 1989-1990.

The programme will include performances in the string, woodwind and brass instruments in addition to guitar.

Students of the two string orchestra of the third and fourth year will perform four pieces and will be conducted by Mr Mohammad Fadl and the Director of the Conservatory respectively.

The final item in the programme will be performed by ten Arab music students under the direction of Mrs Yusra Amila.

FOCUS ON PARLIMENT

By Ahmad Al-Husban

● The Public Attorney's office has referred a number of corruption cases to the Lower House after completing its investigations, a parliamentary source told The Star.

The cases involve a number of former ministers. The constitution specifies that ministers can only be tried before a high council chaired by the Speaker of the Upper House.

The source said the Lower House will debate the referred cases since a request to try a minister needs the endorsement of 60 deputies, representing two-thirds of the House.

The Star was told that a number of new corruption cases are being studied by the Financial Committee of the House. A closed session is expected to convene to debate these cases during the extraordinary session of the House before they are referred to the Public Attorney.

● Deputy Dr Abdullah Nsour, chairman of the National bloc, held a press conference on Monday. He criticised the government's performance since it was formed and said the bloc believes the government has fallen short of fulfilling its promises.

The statement also accused the government of failing in the economic field. Observers believe the statement is a prelude to a move of no confidence in prime Minister Mudar Badran's government. The Islamic bloc had earlier talked about such a move on its part.

● Deputy Fakhri Kawa has sent a memorandum to Speaker Sulaiman Arar complaining of a decision to ban journalists from entering the main hall of the House during adjournment of the sessions.

Impressionable pioneers of France

By Heather Williams
Special to The Star

PARIS HAS long been famous as a cultural centre of Europe, especially during the revolutionary Impressionist period in the nineteenth century.

"The World of Impressionism," a new book by Steven Adams, examines this movement in the context of the political and social upheavals of that time which partially inspired this new movement in the art world. The author also offers a refreshingly new examination of the influence of Oriental art on the painters who boldly shunned tradition to create a new, innovative form of painting.

With the defeat of the Napoleonic armies in the Franco-Prussian War, the Third Republic of France was formed in 1870. Following years of social discontent, war and revolution, and the uprising which resulted in the Paris Commune in 1871, the new government set about the task of stabilising French society. Towards this end, a major plan to restructure Paris was put into action.

Old slums and narrow streets were destroyed and modern Paris was founded. The new wide boulevards (originally intended to provide easy access for troops and to prevent blockades) generated an atmosphere of space and freedom, while theatres, open air cafes and dance venues encouraged the flowering of the now famous Parisian nightlife.

These developments were reflected in the art of the era. The artists reacted against the restrictions placed on them by traditional schools, the Ecole and Academie des Beaux Arts, which adhered to classicism and frowned upon experimentation.

The emerging Impressionists were noted for their interpretations of urban and rural life, painting colorful scenes in defiance of the academic styles. They challenged the traditional European values of art with their use of light and brilliant, pure



One of the important examples of Eastern influence on the European artistic movement: a painting by the Impressionist painter Monet depicting his wife in Japanese costume

colour applied with rapid brush strokes.

While it is well-known that photography techniques made a major impact on 19th century art, one significant influence often overlooked is Oriental art.

Author Steven Adams notes that most of the Impressionist painters were influenced by Japanese art, particularly Hokusai. He says, embracing the techniques of simplicity of form and atten-

tion to line employed by the Japanese into their style of painting.

Eduard Manet, Adams says, liked the free use of bold patches of colour. Camille Pissarro admired the accomplishments and skills of Japanese printmakers as much as the prints themselves. Japanese techniques led Edgar Degas to employ the unconventional device of allowing his figures to be cut by the picture frame, instead of having to por-

tray them complete.

Claude Monet, who followed the Japanese precedent of eliminating unnecessary details, was pleased by the Japanese refinement of taste. The painter once said, "I approve of the suggestions of their aesthetic code, which evokes presence by means of a shadow, the whole by means of a fragment."

However, the Impressionists' interest in Japanese art also led them into buying frenzies. Shops selling Oriental objects had opened in Paris and were frequented by the artists. A shop on the Rue de Rivoli owned by M and Mme Desoye, who had once lived in Japan, was to become a favourite haunt of the Impressionists. Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir purchased fans, prints and other Oriental objects d'art here, which later appeared in their paintings.

James Whistler, for instance, brought blue and white China and a Japanese kimono, in which he posed for Fantin-Latour's "Toilet" in 1865. In Claude Monet's portrait of author Emile Zola, who lent public support to the artists in the face of adverse criticism, Zola is seated in front of a Japanese screen with a print by Kuniaki II on the wall behind him.

However, the influence of Japonisme on Monet is best illustrated in the portrait he painted of his wife wearing Japanese costume, which he showed at the second Impressionist Exhibition held in 1876.

Mme Monet is portrayed wearing an elaborately embroidered red kimono, with a sinister knife-wielding figure in blue on the forefront of the robe. She stands, coyly, with a fan in hand against a background of delicately painted fans. Monet's bold use of large blocks of colour were "clearly borrowed from the Japanese School," according to critic Armand Sylvestre.

Initially, the Impressionist school of art was not accepted by the public. Criticism was often scathing, and the Impression-

ists were commonly referred to as the "Intransigents." But with the Japanese influence, they were beginning to find favour. "La Presse" critics writing of the portrait of Mme Monet were, at last impressed. "Art lovers who are on the look out for solid colouring," they wrote, "will find this figure a real feast."

However, the movement was still not without its critics despite its growing popularity. Albert Wolff, writing for "Le Figaro," likened them to "lost souls" from a psychiatric hospital who "throw tones haphazardly on the canvas."

Nevertheless, the Impressionists' style of painting had gained popularity by the 1890s. Monet's continued success gave him financial security, endorsing his talent and freeing him to experiment. He acquired a country estate at Giverny, in Normandy, and with a Japanese gardener, he created a beautiful water-lily pond over which he built a wooden bridge, resembling a Japanese Edo print. This scene inspired him to produce his now famous "Water Lilies" painting.

Steve Adams investigates each artist, regarding them as individuals rather than looking at the artistic movement as a whole. In his book published by Thames & Hudson, he also supplies useful information on the locations of their studios, the views they painted, and he lists places which can be visited. Most significantly, the author recognises the connection often neglected in European versions of European art history — the influence of Chinese and Japanese art on the Impressionists.

The information certainly far outweighs the minor irritation of occasional repetitive text in various chapters under different headings. The book, which is liberally interspersed with more than 300 colour and black-and-white illustrations, is very accessible. One need not be a specialist or prejudiced towards Impressionism to enjoy it.

The Vietnam reflowers after war

By Heather Williams
Special to The Star

AMERICAN GRASS now grows over fields laid waste by American war machines. Until the war devastated much of Vietnam, it was rich with the vegetation of a tropical forest. Now the flat landscape is interspersed only with spikes of dead trees.

When American Elizabeth Kemp, environmentalist and editor of the newspaper, "World Wide Fund for Nature," first passed through customs at the Hanoi airport, she initially wanted to apologise for this mass destruction caused by the American dropping of 72 million litres of herbicides and 13 million tonnes of bombs on this country.

However, the prevailing Vietnamese attitude is one of looking to the future. This philosophy has helped the country through troubled times and now enables its people to rebuild the country's environment.

Agriculture is moving towards a free market economy.



with the lifting of state controls on prices. The policy of giving five acres of land to each rural family is also increasing motivation. Increases in rice production il-

lustrates the success of these measures. In 1989, Vietnam was the world's third largest rice exporter, following only the United States and Thailand, only two years after an international appeal for emergency food aid to avert famine.

Banking reforms, which began in July 1988, have lifted the restrictions of the centralised banking system whereby banks dealt only with agriculture or trade. Now, all commercial banks can operate in all spheres.

This healthier internal economy is creating interest from foreign countries. The renewed interest in Vietnam, with its programmes of environmental and social restructuring, led Kemp to record her experiences in her book "Month of Pure Light" published by the Women's Press in London.

The A Luoi Valley near the demilitarised zone which divided North and South Vietnam, where 100,000 hectares of forest was sprayed by Agent Orange, ac-

counts for only a fraction of the overall environmental damage. Destruction on this level was, Kemp wrote, "a crime against nature, and humanity and it was beyond retribution." Countless species of wildlife and vegetation disappeared and may not be seen again for some time, if at all.

However, the overall message of the book is hope, as reflected by the Vice-Chairman of the People's Committee of Minh Hol. "We don't want you to write critical comments about Americans," a sentiment repeated strongly throughout the book. "We want to develop good relations with your country."

The lack of funds is all-pervasive, affecting everything from schemes to relocate tribal people who are destroying the forests for survival, to plans for rebuilding roads and bridges.

The difficulties which Kemp and her colleagues encountered as they travelled the length of the country, from Hanoi in the

north to Minh Hai province in the south, served to highlight problems which the Vietnamese live with daily. The author experienced first hand, the intense need for supplies in hospitals. A medical examination was halted several times, due to the failure of the electricity supply.

Rebuilding, restructuring and replanting programmes everywhere were short of funding. At Vietnam's Forestry and Planning Institute, Kemp met the director, Dr Nguyen Quang Ha, who said, "I don't know of any other country which has ever tried to replant a tropical forest before."

The soil has become so hard that tanks must drive over it to break it up. Many saplings were lost to forest fires in initial attempts to replant. Now pines are planted first to provide a covering for the degenerating soil and to serve as protection for the indigenous saplings until they grow strong.

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28 JUNE 1990



The star item in the newly refurbished Japanese Galleries of the British Museum in London. An Edo Period (17th century) writing box with the design of silver moon and pine trees; black lacquer with gold, shell and silver inlay.

Japan on cultural offensive

Japanese public and private organisations have pooled resources to launch a major cultural offensive on Europe. The idea is to wash off years of stereotyped images of Japan and the Japanese - and to win new friends.

By Sybil Bernier-Hart
Special to The Star

LONDON - In the beginning was the car: the symbol of a quiet and assured Japanese penetration of western society. Nationalists assailed the Japanese export industry, governments sought to prevent its fruits from reaching impressionable markets and consumers defied both and indicated they couldn't have enough of it.

Now it's Japanese culture, the myriad manifestations of it on stage, film and in galleries that is keeping Europeans preoccupied. A major, multimedia festival of Japan attracted thousands of visitors to Belgium last year and a similar event is planned to take place in Britain in 1991.

Meanwhile an \$8 million fundraising by Japanese business has enabled the British Museum to open one of its smartest gallery complexes devoted to Japanese arts. Built in Japanese style, entirely under what used to be one of the museum's cavernous roofs, the Japanese galleries are the culmination of many years of work, a follow up to a hugely popular Great Japan Exhibition in 1984.

When the galleries opened in April, their first event, Masterpieces in the British Museum, was designed to show off the best in the museum's huge collection, encompassing ornamental sculpture, swords and armour, ceramics, paintings and prints, calligraphy, albums and books, lacquerware, bronzes and netsuke. Many of the items had not been seen in public before, because of fears that they would be damaged by the elements and lack of airconditioning. The ultra-modern venue has taken care of that. However, for reasons of conservation as well as variety, many of the paintings and prints are to be changed after brief showings, in the style used by Japanese museums and increasingly followed elsewhere.

Lawrence Smith, Keeper of Japanese Antiquities in the museum, says interest in everything Japanese has been on the increase since the postwar period, when it was at its lowest in history. After the 1984 show on Japan convinced museum curators that a special gallery would be well received, a search for venues and funds began.

"The British Museum is a very European, neoclassical building; for a Japanese gallery we need-

ed a lot of space and a stable temperature, high humidity and artificial light that would give fullest protection to works of organic origin, paper, silk, wood, ivory, etc," he says.

The project called for a vast expenditure, of which the museum could contribute only a small amount. "We knew that we could only finance it if we got help from Japan," says Smith. Help came along when Asahi Newspaper offered to run a campaign and the Japanese industry offered to raise most of the money.

Although substantial British donations followed, the museum hopes to raise more money in Japan to expand its work in the field of research. "The British Museum collection (of Japanese art) is quite big, about 24,000 items, many of which, especially paintings, have not been properly studied. The money can go towards calling specialists from Japan to help us work on these things."

Elsewhere preparations are afoot for the Japanese festival next year. When it takes place, the organisers hope that it will leave the visitors dazzled and forever smitten by an appreciation of Japan.

Ecological woes plague Aral Sea

By Leonid Kruglov and Vladimir Lapin

TRAVELLERS FROM Moscow to Tashkent once admired the beautiful emerald expanse of the Aral Sea. Its salt content was so low that it was home to freshwater fish like salmon and surgeon. Local fishermen sold more exquisite fish delicacies than could be found in even the best food shops in the capital.

Dozens of fishery production units on the shore supplied the country annually with up to 300,000 tonnes of high-quality fish. And ichthyologists from the Academy of Sciences of the USSR argued that the Aral Sea could have doubled and even tripled its bounty. Not much was needed for that - other than starting a few breeding sites.

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has disappeared and the fish are dead. The Aral Sea is becoming another desert. Ships are stranded on its bare and exposed bed, their rusty hulls covered by sand and salt.

Those who live by the Aral near the lower reaches of great rivers, are compelled to drink water which is saturated with pesticides, herbicides and other filth.

These are the results of man's economic activity. Without considering the ecological costs economists repeatedly argued that the Soviet Union needed cotton and the billions of roubles earned from its export.

Though the state and its allies need cotton, the disappearance of the sea has been a terrible blow to the region's economy and its people. Hundreds of thousands of Kazakhs and Karakalpakhs have had to abandon the lands of their ancestors.

A number of urgent measures have now been worked out to try and save the sea. Each cubic metre of water for cotton growing is monitored to ensure an adequate flow into the sea. Foresters are planting desert vegetation on the sandhills that have emerged on the former sea to prevent the sand from moving.

There is also new international participation in saving the sea. V. Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, and Mustafa Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), recently signed an agreement in Nairobi to work towards the conservation of the Aral Sea. Foreign scientists, together with their Soviet colleagues, are working out a detailed programme to coordinate efforts.

The water level has fallen so far that the sea is now divided into two separate reservoirs containing bitter, salty water. The vegetation along the shoreline

ECONOMY The Star

Small-scale project to help women in Kerak launched

AMMAN (Star) — Her Majesty Queen Noor laid the cornerstone Wednesday for the production centre of the Bee-keeping and Honey production scheme in Kerak Governorate. The project is an income-generating scheme that is being implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Women and Development Programme.

The project is one of the income-generating schemes of the Women and Development Programme of Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Implementation began in early 1988 in co-operation with the Production and Vocational Training Co-operative for Rural Women in Mu'ab in the Kerak Governorate, which is affiliated with the Jordanian Co-operative Organisation.

The project aims at encouraging the rural Jordanian women to increase their participation in the country's socioeconomic development. This is accomplished through training the women and preparing them for undertaking various production activities. This falls within Jordan's general strategy for encouraging national production and curbing the level of imports.

The Women and Development Programme, with funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), provides the technical and managerial expertise and the training required for setting up and implementing the project. The programme provided the financial support for setting up 50 bee hives of Australian bees. In addition, the programme provided 100% coverage of the operational expenses

for the first year of the project's implementation, 50% of the operational expenses for the second year and 25% of the operational expenses for the third year. In the fourth year, the Co-operative will undertake the funding and management of the project.

The project's yearly production ranges from 400-700 kilograms of natural pure honey which are marketed in the local market. A percentage of the profits is recycled as a revolving fund to be

used for starting up new projects in the community. While the rest of the profits are distributed among the women in accordance with the regulations of the Co-operative.

Jordan's honey production does not exceed 25% of its honey consumption, therefore the expansion of this project is incorporated in the Co-operative's future plan. AmI, in order to benefit from this project as a model to be implemented on the national level, the Women and Development Programme will incorporate it in its plan for the following phase (1991-1995).

The bee hives are located in Al Aina area in South Mazar in the Kerak Governorate, where the wild herbs which bees feed on are available. They are situated on twenty one dunums, which the Land and Survey Authority gave permission for their utilisation by the Co-operative for the purpose of reaching the project's objectives.

First Arab conference on egg and poultry industry opens in mid-July

AMMAN (Star) — The first Arab Conference For Poultry and Egg Production will be held in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan between 16-19 July. Foreign and Arab delegations will participate in this event which is organised by the Baghdad-based Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) other organisers include the ministries of Agriculture and Supply, the Jordan Co-operative Organisation and the regional office (Jordan) of the AFFI.

Participants in the four-day conference will evaluate the poultry and egg industry in the Arab world, the needs for its products and the future of the industry until the year 2005, present and future production capacities, quality control standards, inter-Arab co-operation for self sufficiency and means to reach this end, technological procedures used

and future needs for the feed both qualitative and quantitative. Topics to be covered by the conference include the study of present poultry and egg production in the Arab world and future expansion in that field including the production sites, present capacities, sources of raw material, the present inter-Arab projects, the scientific research centres. Also the future needs of the Arab world for poultry meats and eggs until the year 2005 and the ways and means to provide those needs from Arab resources will be discussed.

Present technology applied in the Arab World and the world approach to this technology and the role of the Arab research centres especially in the fields of broiler, hatching eggs, tables eggs production and breeders production will be another important topic.

Other topics will cover Arab

technical staff needed for the poultry industry and the ways and means to improve their abilities, prevailing poultry diseases in the Arab World and means for controlling these diseases and the veterinary production and use, pricing policy for poultry meats and eggs and its role in backing local production and self sufficiency, poultry feed production and ways to provide it from Arab resources, international trade between Arab countries for poultry and eggs, poultry projects in the Arab world ways and means to improve their capacity.

A specialised exhibition for poultry and egg production for the Arab and international producers of poultry equipment, breeders, broilers and egg producers at veterinary medicines supplies will be opened during the conference.

Arab Bank continues to improve client services

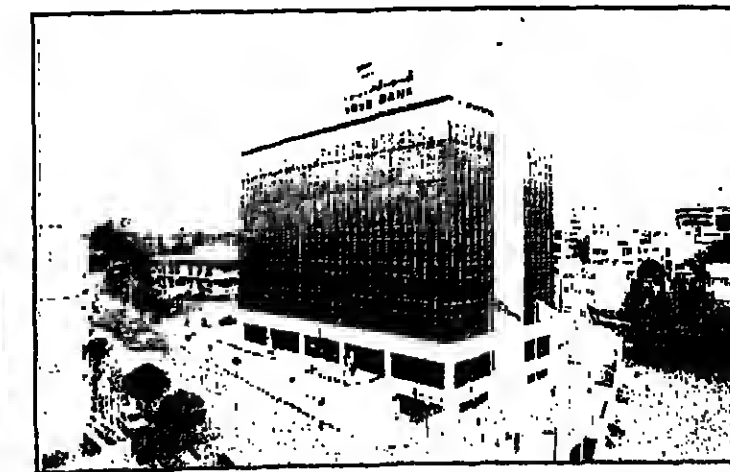
AMMAN (Star) — The Arab Bank's Senior Manager of Information Systems Division, Mr Eyyad Shukairy, said the bank will continue to improve on services extended to clients by applying the best in modern technology so that clients can save time and effort in conducting their business with the bank. Mr Shukairy said the bank was among the first in the Middle East to computerise its internal accounting system in terms of processing account statements and data. This was later followed up by a number of services aiming at providing efficient service to the bank's clients.



Mr Eyyad Shukairy

The division devised services that aim at bringing the bank to the clients whether at their offices or in their homes or even abroad. By the end of 1985 the Arab bank introduced the automatic teller machine (ATM) service which enabled clients to perform a number of operations like deposits, withdrawals, request statements of account, set electricity bills, and even request a new cheque book without dealing with the bank's counter thus saving time and money. Later on, the bank introduced a computerised network connecting all its branches to one central computer which enables clients to perform regular banking activities like cheque cashing, withdrawals and receiving remittances from any Arab Bank branch in the Kingdom.

Mr Shukairy said that the bank also offers its corporate clients specialised services. It now installs a computer terminal in these companies directly connected to the main computer of the bank which gives company executives direct accessibility into their own accounts. They can monitor account movements



as they occur. Later, the bank will improve on this service so that clients can make transactions through the computer without leaving their offices.

The Phone-Bank service was introduced early this year and will now be extended and improved upon, Mr Shukairy said. The Phone-bank allows clients to phone in from anywhere in the world to check on information related to their accounts. They can also request cheque books, as needed, order a statement of account and even

change their secret numbers which permit the bank's computer to provide the above information. This service will be expanded so that clients can phone in to receive foreign exchange and interest rates information.

The Arab Bank will continue to open new branches and cash offices to better serve its clients around the world. Mr Shukairy said the bank will open 10 new offices in Jordan this year, as cash offices equipped with teleprocessing have proved to be quite effective for the clients and the bank alike.

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● Tender documents will be issued soon for the provision of water measurement equipment and the modernisation of available ones to monitor water levels in the Jordan Valley through computers. The value of the tender is estimated at JD 240,000 and will be covered by a German loan.

● Also the Jordan Valley Authority will take measures to prevent the contamination of sweet water with brackish water in the Wadi Hushan area so as to save the banana plantations in that area. Tender documents will be available for this project soon.

● The Ministry of Tourism in co-operation with other official parties has outlined areas between Sweimeh and South Ghur to encourage private sector investments. These areas will be supplied with water and electricity after Sweimeh-South Ghur road is completed. The same policy will be adopted for areas in Ajloun and Debin.

● The Kuwaiti Development Fund has agreed to provide loans to Jordan to develop land in the Ghor Safi region. The Star has learned.

● Feasibility studies will be conducted by two local companies on Al Wajah and Al Moujib dams. The European Community (EC) will finance the two projects.

● The government is studying a project to increase the capacity of the oil terminal at the Tapline pumping point. An additional pumping station will be built for that purpose.

● A number of projects including the building of a gas bottling station at the Jordan Petroleum Co. have been approved. The new stations will cost JD 587,000. Other equipment including the installation of an oven at the gas containers factory will cost JD 235,000.

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THE STAR 9

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Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8.1/4	7.7/8	14.7/8	7.5/16	8.13/16
2 mo.	8.1/4	7.15/16	14.7/8	7.5/16	8.13/16
3 mo.	8.1/4	8.00	14.7/8	7.5/16	8.13/16
6 mo.	8.5/16	8.5/16	14.13/16	7.3/8	8.5/8
1 year	8.7/16	8.9/16	14.9/16	7.7/16	8.5/16

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7.5%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.0%, 1 month 8.00%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9.0%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.5%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
1.AST	1.6760/70	1.4100/10	1.7360/70	155.00/05	1.1730/35	5.6220/40

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Arab Finance

Egyptian American Bank	Company
PO Box 1825 4 Hasan Sabri Street Zamalek Cairo Tel: 651711/651290/651043/ 651402 Telex: 92683 EGAMB UN/92961 EGAMH UN/92342 AMBANK UN Cable: EGYPAMRANK Activities: Commercial Bank Established: 1976 Financial data Authorized capital: £E 10,000,000 Paid-up capital: £E 8,000,000 Total assets/liabilities: £E 210,990,000 Shareholders: American Express International Banking Corporation (49%), Bank of Alexandria (51%).	PO Box 1824 4 Ibn-Zanki Street Zamalek Cairo Tel: 651711/651290/651043/ 651402 Telex: 92683 EGAMB UN/92961 EGAMH UN/92342 AMBANK UN Cable: EGYPAMRANK Activities: Merchant bank, equity investments, corporate finance syndication and financial services Established: 1976 (as American Express Middle East Develop- ment Company) Financial data Authorized capital: £E 2,000,000 Paid-up capital: £E 2,000,000 Shareholders: American Express International Banking Corporation (10%), Olayan Investments Company (21%), Middle East Investments Company (21%), Azemco Hold- ings (15%), Fama (13%), others (20%).
Egyptian Finance Company (Formerly American Express Middle East Development)	

Matchmaking

EL NASR EL FATIM POR TRADING	Accessories and spare parts (Motor vehicle)
5, Zaki street Tewfikya Cairo Tel: 748488 Telephone sets - Photocopiers	25, Youssef Abbas street Nasr City Tel: 607466 Telex: 22182 PBNSR Electric appliances - Accessor- ies and spare parts (Motor ve- hicle)
NASR SAYED HASSAN IBRA- HIM 4, Gama El Kawakbi street Agouza - Giza Tel: 3499190 - 3467698	

Made-in-Jordan

Following are addresses of importers in the Nether- lands who are interested in Jordanian-made household furniture:	4. Schloeder Inter-Linea B.V. Beyersdstraat 16a 4112 BE Breda Tel: (0) 23-370733
1. Inter furniture B.V. P.O. Box 752 7300 AT Apeldoorn Tel: (0) 55-216366	5. Passman Import Rijksweg 545 2025 DG Haarlem Tel: (0) 23-370733
2. Van der Meer Meubelen B.V. P.O. Box 7007 3502 KA Utrecht Tel: (0) 30-880404 Tlx: 40395	6. Rondova Nederland B.V. Postbus 31 7200 AA Zutphen Tlx: 49249
3. Dalo Vanseveldseweg 36a Lichtenvoorde Tel: (0) 5443-76578	For more information on importers of household fur- niture in the Netherlands, please contact the Jordan Trade Association, P.O. Box 830432 Amman- Jordan Tel: 685603/4.

Gold & Silver

Gold	JD
1kg	7,850.00
21 ct	6,800
18 ct	5,900
Eng. pound	
8g	56,000
Rashad:	
7g	49,000
24ct (swiss)	8,750
Silver	
1 kg	150,000

Money
MattersAverage exchange rates on
in Jls
Tuesday 26/6/1990

US\$	668.0	672.0
£	151.5	158.4
DM	397.9	400.3
SFR	472.6	475.4
FRF	118.5	119.2
YEN	429.3	431.8
(100)		
DFL	353.7	355.8
SKR	110.0	110.7
LIT	54.3	54.6
(100)		
BLF	194.3	195.5
(10)		

Financial
Market

Jerusalem Insurance Co.
Established in: 1975
Address: Abdali-Sharif Bldg.
Tel: 623191
P.O. Box 20094
Tel: 21461 JIRCO JO.
Fax: 643108

No. of Employees
Jerusalem 65
Non-Jordanians 2
Data/Shares 1988
Par Value/Share 1
Market Value/Share 1,290
Book Value/Share 2,512
No. of Subscribed Shares
1,000,000
No. of Traded Shares 16,794
Volume of Trading (JD) 21,734
No. of Floor Contracts 28
Market Value of Subscribed
Shares 1,290,000
Capital & Shareholders' Equity
Authorized Capital 1,500,000
Subscribed Capital 1,000,000
Paid-in Capital 1,000,000
Compulsory Reserves 1,358,217
Valuatory & General Reserves
116,246
Retained Earnings 37,816
Shareholders' Equity 2,512,279
Assets, Liabilities/Profit & Loss
Fixed Assets 407,333
Current Assets 3,120,987
Receivables 486,518
Total Assets 3,721,725
Current Liabilities 394,097
Technical Reserves 699,571
Liabilities 1,205,446
Total Liabilities & Shareholders'
Equity 3,721,725
Net Sales (Revenue) 1,502,968
Life Insurance Premium
141,080
Marine Insurance Premium
84,810
Fire Insurance Premium 49,488
Motor Insurance Premium
1,187,487
Accident Insurance Premium &
others 40,103
Net Income Before Taxes
253,270
Net Income After Taxes 168,837
Dividends Paid/Shareholders
100,000
Working Capital (L.D.)
2,726,880 2,512,937

Source: Amman
Financial Market

Business Notes

Productivity and Growth

GREATER PRODUCTIVITY is required to bring Jordan out of crisis and put it back on the path of growth. Industrial Management and Engineering (IME) is a way of looking at and evaluating enhancing productivity.

IME brings together resources to facilitate effective system operation. It is concerned with design, installation, and improvement of integrated systems of people, equipment, material, information and energy with the goal of improving organisational productivity and work quality. "Unlike other engineering disciplines, IME emphasises the human interaction needed to make any system operative. Furthermore, industrial engineers are expected to co-ordinate their efforts and co-operate with technical specialists to optimise total system operations," according to Dr Munif Hijazi, general manager of the Jordan Technical Consultants Group.

IME staff can operate in the areas of transportation, distribution, military logistics, finance, public health, and other services that have emerged as potential outlets for industrial engineers. But regardless of the business in which firms engage, industrial engineering staff tend to be involved in one or more of: operations research, facilities planning, methods engineering, work system design, materials handling and storage, labour utilization and effectiveness, efficiency and cost control, maintenance planning and management, safety and environmental issues and production planning and control.

Successful use of IME services requires management commitment to change. This is not easy to achieve and implies that management is presently doing things wrong. The modern manager is willing to face up to this because he is seeking to improve operations.

Facts & Figures

JORDANIAN EXPORTS amounted to JD 534.106 million during 1989 compared to JD 324.788 million in 1988, an increase of JD 209.318 million. Official statistics show Jordan's exports to Arab Common Market countries amounting to JD 145.165 million compared to JD 75.862 million in 1988, an increase in Jordan's exports to Arab markets by 69.303 million. Jordanian exports to the rest of the Arab countries were JD 96.088 million in 1989 compared to JD 60.254 million in 1988, an increase of JD 35.834 million.

Jordan's exports to European Market (EC) countries last year reached JD 25.050 million compared to JD 25.447 million in 1988. Local exports to other European countries amounted to JD 58,000 only compared to JD 1.482 million in 1988.

Exports to the United States in 1989 were JD 2.816 million compared to JD 1.209 million in 1988, an increase of JD 1.607 million.

Exports to socialist countries reached JD 53.664 million compared with JD 39.686 million in 1988, an increase of JD 13.978 million.

Jordan's exports to India last year amounted to JD 94.933 million compared with JD 55.426 million in 1988, an increase of JD 39.507 million.

Local exports to Japan last year amounted to JD 18.162 million, an increase of JD 11.527 million over 1988's exports of JD 6.635 million.

Jordanian exports to other countries last year amounted to JD 98.170 million compared to JD 58.787 million in 1988, an increase of JD 39.383 million.

Shows & Exhibitions

Gulf Nutrition and Food 1991

NUTRITIONISTS FROM all over the Gulf will meet in Dubai to participate in the Gulf Food Exp. 1991 to be held between 12 and 15 May. The exposition will include competitions among chefs in cooking, decorating and presenting various kinds of foods.

Prizes will be awarded to the best bakery, best butchery, best airline and medals will be given to creative chefs. Dubai was chosen as a venue for the exposition because it combines the best in restaurants and international cuisine in the Gulf region.

For more information call: Maria Bareira, Public Relations, Dubai International Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE. Tel: 372200, P.O. Box 9292 Dubai, Tlx: 47474-DITC-UAE. Fax: 373493, Dubai.

Contracts and contacts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: Value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 20/1990, conducting soil study of the new plant ground, TD: JD15, SB: 12/7/90.

— Jordao Electricity Co., supply of cables and aluminium wires, TD: JD 5, SB: 26/7/90. Ministry of Public Works and Housing, TN: 42/90, conducting a feasibility study for the

Jaber Road, Ramtha, TD: JD 25, SB: 7/7/90.

— General Supplies Dept., TN: 61/90, supply of computer paper, TD: JD 5, SB: 16/7/90, TN: 96/90, supply of tapes and cassettes, TD: JD 12, SB: 6/8/90, TN: 133/90, supply of veterinary lab equipment, TD: JD 3, SB: 5/8/90, TN: 145/90, supply of spare parts, TD: JD 2, SB: 8/8/90, TN: 157/90, supply of sportswear, TD: JD 30, SB: 6/8/90, TN: 181/90, supply of meteorology balloons, TD: JD2, SB: 6/8/90, TN: 184/90, supply of musical instruments, TD: JD 5, SB: 1/8/90, TN: 187/90, printing of books, TD: JD 5,

SB: 6/8/90, TN: 243/90, supply of furniture, TD: JD 100, SB: 5/8/90, TN: 243/90, supply of medical equipment, TD: JD 20, SB: 5/8/90, TN: 245/90, supply of coffee tables, TD: JD 25, SB: 1/8/90.

— Ministry of Water and Irrigation, TN: L-17/90, supply of water pipes of different diameters, TD: JD 100, SB: 10/7/90.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 39/90, supply of Monel-400 plates fittings solid round bars and hollow bars, TD: JD 50, SB: 31/7/90, TN: 40/90, supply of ductile high strength low alloy steel, TD: JD 10, SB: 29/7/90;

TN: 41/90, supply of wire wrapped screens for new wells, TD: JD 10, SB: 25/7/90; TN: 42/90, supply of portable fire extinguishers, TD: JD 10, SB: 30/7/90; TN: 43/90, supply of rubber conveyor belt, TD: JD 15, SB: 1/8/90, TN: 44/90, supply of diesel welding machine, TD: JD 3, SB: 28/7/90; TN: 45/90, supply of carbon steel pipes and pipes fittings, TD: JD 50, SB: 4/8/90.

— Jordan University, TN: 9/90, supply of magnetic tapes for computers, TD: JD 5, SB: 14/7/90.

— Jordan Petroleum Co., TN: 73/90, supply of digital (epadx) telephone exchange, TD: JD 10, SB: 5/8/90.

Royal Scientific Society, TN: 66/90, supply of ribbons for NCR 647 and 647 printers, (tender extension), TD: JD 5, BB: 10%, SB: 30/6/90.

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US imports from MidEast reaches \$5.6 billion in first quarter of 1990

THE US trade deficit with countries in the Middle East and North Africa jumped by 611.6 per cent to \$1.9 billion in the first quarter of 1990, up from \$271.2 million during the first quarter of 1989, according to figures recently released by the US Department of Commerce.

In the first quarter of 1990, \$9.4 billion in goods flowed between the US and its trade partners in the Middle East and North Africa. That marked a 28.7 per cent increase over the same period in 1989, when \$7.3 billion worth of goods were traded between the US and countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

During the first quarter of this year, US general imports from countries in the Middle East and North Africa reached \$5.6 billion, making up 4.7 per cent of total US imports. Imports rose by 48.9 per cent from \$3.7 billion during January-March 1989, when that figure represented 3.4 per cent of all US general imports. Meanwhile, the United States raised its first quarter exports, including re-exports to the Middle East and North Africa, to \$3.73 billion, up 5.6 per cent from \$3.5 billion during the first quarter of 1989.

Saudi Arabia continues to be the US' largest Middle Eastern trade partner, with \$3 billion in goods exchanged between the two countries in the first quarter of 1990. US exports to Saudi Arabia fell by 10.2 per cent from \$971.7 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$872.4 million in the first quarter of 1990. US imports from the oil-rich Gulf state climbed by 30.6 per cent from \$16 billion to \$21.3 billion in the period under review. Trade between the two countries in the first quarter of 1990 resulted in a US trade deficit of \$1.27 billion.

Israel finished the first quarter of 1990 as the Middle East's second largest trade partner with the US. The Jewish state exported \$847.1 million worth of its products to the US, which is the source of over \$3 billion in annual aid. That amounted to a 3.9 per cent rise in US imports from Israel since the first quarter of 1989, when \$815.3 million in Israeli goods were sent to the US. At the same time, US exports to Israel reached \$644.4 million in the first quarter of 1990, up 6.8 per cent from the first quarter of 1989 when the figure stood at \$715.6 million.

At the close of the first quarter of 1990, Algeria led North African states in its volume of trade with the US. The country's exports to the US reached \$820.8 million in the first quarter of this year, moving up by 78.2 per cent from the \$460.5 million level of exports to the US during the same period in 1989. The country's imports from the US increased by 60.9 per cent, from \$123.9 million in the first quarter of 1989, to \$199.4 million in the same period of this year. Algeria improved its trade position with the US by 84.6 per cent from a trade surplus of \$336.6 million in the first quarter of 1989 to a much higher \$621.4 million in the first quarter of 1990.

Egypt finished the first quarter of 1990 as the US' second largest North African trade partner. The level of trade between the two countries reached \$670 million during the period under review. The US imported \$110 million in Egyptian goods in the first quarter of 1990, up by nearly 200 per cent from the same period in 1989, when \$36.8 million in products were purchased from the Arab world's most populous nation. US exports to Egypt decreased by 7.65 per cent from \$606.4 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$560 million in the same period in 1990. Perhaps Egypt will make use of the \$2.3 billion in annual aid it receives from the US to alleviate the \$450 million trade deficit it suffered after first quarter trade with this country.

Egypt's neighbour, Libya, on the other hand, did not engage in any trade with the US in the first quarter of 1990.

Morocco, reduced its level of imports from the US by 14.9 per cent from \$111.7 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$95 million in the first quarter of 1990. But the kingdom did not manage to increase its exports to the US. They fell by 7.8 per cent to \$27.1 million in the first quarter of this year, compared to a 1989 first quarter level of \$29.4 million. At the end of the period under review, Morocco's trade performance resulted in a \$67.9 million trade deficit with the US.

Tunisia's first quarter results followed a similar pattern. Tunisian imports from the US climbed by 17.4 per cent to \$37.3 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$43.8 million in the first quarter of this year. Meanwhile, exports to the US fell by 17.5 per cent from \$13.7 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$11.3 million. The relatively small amount of trade conducted between the two countries in the first quarter of 1990 left the US with a \$25.5 million trade surplus with Tunisia.

Lebanon, once a bustling financial centre, is now all-too familiar with what a relentless civil war can do to the concept of trade. The country was only able to channel \$5.2 million of its products to the United States during the first quarter of 1990. That amounted to a 30 per cent decrease since the first quarter of last year, when US imports from Lebanon totalled \$7.5 million. The country's imports from the US decreased by 36.6 per cent from \$41.8 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$26.5 million in the same period this year. Lebanon's trade deficit with the US at the conclusion of the first quarter of 1990 stood at \$21.3 million.

Jordan finished the first quarter of 1990 with a low level of trade with the US. Jordanian exports to the US only reached \$2.8 million. That represented an increase of 40 per cent since the first quarter of 1989 figure of \$2 million. US exports to Jordan increased by 13 per cent from \$87.2 million in the first three months of 1989 to \$98.7 million in the first quarter of 1990. A trade surplus of \$95.9 million in the first quarter of 1990 was registered by the US.

Bahrain failed to raise its exports to the US in the first quarter of 1990. US imports dropped by 40.2 per cent from \$28.6 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$17.1 million in the period under review. The Gulf country purchased fewer products from the US in the first quarter of 1990. US exports to Bahrain

dropped by 12.9 per cent from \$40.1 million in the first three months of 1989 to \$34.9 million during the same period this year. During the first quarter of 1990, the US recorded a \$17.8 million trade surplus with Bahrain.

Oman succeeded in raising its 1990 first quarter exports to the US by 472 per cent to \$53.2 million from \$9.3 million the previous year. But its imports from the US fell by 15.3 per cent from \$41.1 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$34.8 million during the same period this year. Trade between the two countries in the first quarter of 1990 gave Oman a \$18.4 million trade surplus with the US.

Qatar slightly raised its first quarter exports to the US by 22 per cent from \$12.2 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$14.9 million in the first quarter of 1990. Qatar's imports from the US increased by a slight margin of 7.2 per cent from \$24.9 million in the first quarter of 1989 to \$26.7 million in the same period this year. Trade between the two countries left the US with an \$11.8 million trade surplus with Qatar in the first quarter of this year.

The (North) Yemen Arab Republic exported \$79.2 million of its goods to the US in the first quarter of this year. That marked a 6.6 per cent rise since the first quarter of 1989, when this country purchased \$74.3 million in North Yemen goods. US exports to the republic increased by a substantial 92.7 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 to \$21.4 million, up from \$11.1 million in the first quarter of 1989. First quarter trade with the US gave North Yemen a \$57.8 million trade surplus with the US.

The volume of trade between North Yemen's southern neighbour, the People's Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen (PDRY), and the US was not as high. The country, which has now formed a single nation with the Yemen Arab Republic, increased its first quarter exports to the US by over 1000 per cent from \$900,000 in the first quarter of 1989 to \$1.4 million in the period under review. Imports from the US increased by a much less significant, 27.7 per cent from \$1.8 million in the first three months of 1989 to \$2.3 million in the first quarter of 1990. The PDRY's trade performance with the US in the first quarter of 1990 resulted in a \$9 million trade surplus with this country.

Our Say...

Diplomatic manouvres

STATEMENTS MADE by two of Israel's ministers, Ariel Sharon and David Levy, this week indicate that Israel is now launching a diplomatic offensive the aim of which is to break loose from its isolation and any commitments it had previously made to the United States. It is worth noting that these statements were made in the aftermath of the US administration's decision to suspend its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Sharon's statement received considerable attention since they were made by the Israel's absorption and housing minister, whose job is to settle as many Jewish immigrants as possible in Israel. Sharon said that Soviet immigrants will not be sent to settle in the occupied territories. The declaration was described as a hopeful development by the US State Department. But it is obvious, probably too obvious, that Sharon was only trying to calm critics in the United States and the Soviet Union, especially after threats to disrupt the flow of Soviet Jews into Israel were made by Soviet President Gorbachev during his summit meeting with US President George Bush.

Then Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy came out on Tuesday to reject the negotiation formula proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker for peace talks that will include Palestinian deportees and residents of East Jerusalem. He said other unspecified ways can be found to begin such talks.

This development which was seen by observers in both Israel and the United States as the most unequivocal rejection by Israel of the Baker proposals, is the prelude to another diplomatic manoeuvre as represented by a lengthy letter which Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is said to be writing to President Bush. The substance of this letter, which is expected to be sent to Washington in the coming two weeks, will be a mixture of false assurances of Israel's commitment to the peace process and to reaching a settlement with the Palestinians in the occupied areas, and a final rejection of proposals made by Shamir himself in his April 1989 so-called Israeli initiative which later developed into the Baker points.

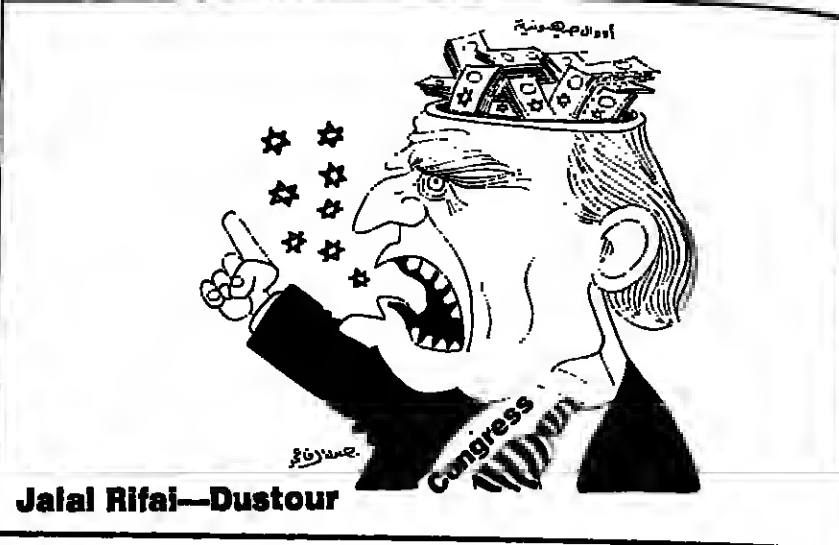
There is no doubt the Israeli right-wing government sees the continuation of the flow of Soviet and other Jews to Israel as the most crucial objective of the Israeli leadership. It also knows that without American money and backing it will be almost impossible to absorb the thousands of immigrants pouring into Israel every month and therefore it will seek to lead the US administration once more into a pointless debate on the form of expected dialogue and the unending list of details and questions that it will keep on raising until the Americans get bored with the whole issue.

Sharon's statements are nothing but a pack of lies. For who can monitor the movement of immigrants inside Israel and the occupied territories when Israel refuses to let permanent observer teams into the West Bank and Gaza? And if no Jews are settling in the West Bank today, even though new settlements are being built, what guarantees can Mr Sharon offer for the future?

By the same token, Mr Levy's remarks can only be interpreted as a first step before a total Israeli withdrawal from current peace attempts that aim at bringing Israeli and Palestinian representatives together.

Some US officials have recently talked about penalizing Israel if it continues to evade peace. While such talk is welcomed, not only by Palestinians and Arabs, but also by other people who have had enough of Israel's evasive tactics, it is very unlikely that US officials will risk destroying their own careers by publicly calling to impose sanctions against Israel.

We will see a very active Israeli diplomacy in the coming few weeks whose main aim is to liberate Israel from any promises or commitments it had earlier made to the US administration in regard to negotiations with the Palestinians. And now that the US has suspended its own dialogue with the PLO, the only point of view to be heard in Washington will be that of Israel's.



The unknown heroes of the 'Great Game'

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON — First coined by a young British army officer named Arthur Conolly and later immortalised by Rudyard Kipling in his novel *Kim*, the term "Great Game" was given to the part played by British and Russian agents throughout the nineteenth century. They were the spies who entered the vast area of Central Asia — to the north of the South Asian subcontinent — and gathered intelligence, surveyed and made maps of the area.

Conolly, who was caught spying and later executed, is just one of the officers and explorers mentioned in Peter Hopkirk's account of the adventures and misadventures of the participants. "The Great Game: On Secret Service in High Asia," published by John Murray, is a long and entertaining read, centred on an area in which the author has travelled extensively.

"The vast chessboard on which this shadowy struggle for political ascendancy took place stretched from the snow-capped Caucasus in the west, across the great deserts and mountain ranges of Central Asia, to Chinese Turkestan and Tibet in the east. The ultimate prize, or so it was feared in London and Calcutta, and fervently hoped by ambitious Russian officers serving in Asia, was British India," explains Hopkirk.

He elucidates that it all began in the early years of the nineteenth century, when Russian troops started to fight their way southwards through the Caucasus, then inhabited by fierce Muslim and Christian tribesmen, towards northern Iran. At first like Russia's march eastwards across Siberia two centuries earlier, this did not seem to pose any serious threat to British interests. But a few years later intelligence reached London that the combined armies of France (under Napoleon Bonaparte) and Russia considered marching on India. Although the threat dissipated, it was not long before the Russians turned their eyes to India once more.

"There, in a vast arena of desert and mountain to the north of India, lay the ancient Muslim khanates of Khiva, Bokhara and Kokand. As the Russian advance towards them gathered momentum, London and Calcutta became increasingly alarmed. Before very long this great political no-man's-land was to become a vast adventure playground for ambitious young officers and explorers of both sides as they mapped the passes and deserts across which armies would have to march

if war came to the region," says Hopkirk.

By the middle of the 19th century Central Asia was rarely out of the headlines, as one by one the ancient caravan towns and khanates of the former Silk Road fell to Russian arms. "As the gap between the two front lines gradually narrowed, the Great Game intensified. Despite the dangers, principally from hostile tribes and rulers, there was no shortage of intrepid young officers eager to risk their lives beyond the frontier, filling in the blanks on the map, reporting on Russian movements, and trying to win the allegiance of suspicious khans," declares Hopkirk.

But certain areas were judged too perilous, or politically sensitive, for European ventures into, even in disguise. And yet, says Hopkirk, these parts had to be explored and mapped, if India was to be defended. Consequently, Indian hillmen of exceptional intelligence and resource, specially trained in clandestine surveying techniques, were dispatched across the frontier disguised as Muslim holy men or Buddhist pilgrims. In this way, often at great risk to their lives, they secretly mapped thousands of square miles of previously unexplored terrain with remarkable accuracy. Similarly, the Russians used Mongolian Buddhists to penetrate regions considered too dangerous for Europeans.

For the British it was the likes of Arthur Conolly, the unlikely named Eldred Pottinger and Richmond Shakespeare who played the Great Game — some in disguise and others in blatant full regiments. Pottinger was one of the former. He darkened his skin with dye and posed as a Muslim holy man. What began as the reconnaissance of Heart (Afghanistan) turned into an intelligence mission that was to last more than a year. He played a crucial role in the defence of Heart and died of fever at the age of 32.

Although there was outrage against news of atrocities in Central Asia that filtered back to England, and a few painters immortalised scenes of their heroes dying and even poetry was penned in honour of brave young men, Hopkirk says that most of the British heroes of the Great Game (and their Indian counterparts) have no memorial. He admits that there is little or nothing to show on the map for all their efforts and sacrifices. Today they live on only in unread memoirs, the occasional place name, and in the yellowing intelligence reports of that long-forgotten adventure.

The great game: On Secret Service in High Asia. Peter Hopkirk, John Murray, £19.95. Hardback.

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28 JUNE 1990

Opinion

How Palestinians view Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel

By Frank Collins

FEW ISSUES since the Intifada began have stirred Palestinians as much as the present mass immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. One can easily understand this. Here are a people who were dispersed by the Israelis in 1948 and 1967 and their land confiscated to make way for Jewish settlement. Now they are being pushed aside again for the benefit of newcomers to this ancient land.

Most Palestinians living in neighbouring lands are refugees who fled before the Israeli army and who now fear that the new Soviet Jewish immigration will end any chance of their ever returning to their homeland or even to that small part of it that may eventually become the new Palestine.

Those living in the occupied territories fear that the flood of Soviet Jews will increase the intransigence of Israel and result in the indefinite prolongation of a peace settlement. To these Palestinians, Shamir's statement last January that a "big Israel" is needed for the settlement of Soviet Jews, no matter how often it is subsequently denied, remains the true declaration of the Israeli intention to annex the occupied territories.

Lastly, the Palestinians living within the Jewish state can only expect a worsening of the discrimination, economic and social, that they face daily. Lavish funding of the Soviet Jewish immigrants is seen as threatening even the present meagre funding levels of their municipalities and their social services.

While the Israeli government has made strenuous endeavours for the past 40 years to induce Jews living anywhere in the world to immigrate to Israel, it has made the return of ethnic Palestinians to Palestine almost impossible. Reunification of separated Palestinian families has been held to a minimum. According to then-Minister of Defence Yitzhak Rabin, of a total of 88,429 applications, only 13,509 were approved between the years of 1967 and 1987. Since the beginning of the Intifada, virtually no applications for family reunification have been granted.

In addition to this heartless separation of Palestinian families, the occupation authorities are imposing conditions on travel permits issued to some Palestinians in the occupied territories that cause them to lose residency rights on their return. The treatment of the Palestinians is quite consistent with the policy of "population transfer" supported by such extremists as Rabbi Meir Kahane and Rehavam Ze'evi. Whatever the official statements of Israeli leaders, including those of both major political factions,

other four settlements in the West Bank.

To date, at least, the Soviet Jewish immigrants are not settling in the occupied territories in large numbers, in spite of efforts by the present settlers to induce them to do so. Excluding occupied East Jerusalem, as the Israeli government always does, the Israelis say that less than one per cent of the incoming Soviet Jews are settling in the occupied territories. However when occupied East Jerusalem is added, the figure jumps to 10 per cent.

Even if the percentage figures remain as above, the impact of the arrival of the Soviet Jews on settlement activity in the occupied territories will surely grow. The available housing in central Israel, in and around Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, is limited and will soon become completely exhausted. The heavily subsidised settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, will become very attractive economically to both Israeli and Soviet Jews as the available housing in central Israel becomes fully occupied.

"Fungible" funds

In the past, American grants to Israel have required only a promise that the specific money provided by the grants would not be spent on settlement building in the occupied territories. But of course, as Secretary of State James Baker has already noted, the money is fungible. Past grants to Israel have freed up other Israeli government funds which then have been spent on Jewish settlements. To correct this situation, the Bush administration is now insisting that Israel agree that no new settlements will be built or old ones expanded in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem, period. So far, the Israeli government has refused to agree.

The possibility of an Israeli-Palestinian peace depends on the Bush administration standing firm on its insistence that no funds be provided to Israel that will enable the building of more settlements in the occupied territories. If funding continues to be provided by the United States, it takes no imagination to foresee a tremendous surge in the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, with the aim of extinguishing hopes for a Palestinian state. This policy can only lead to generations of conflict.

Not even Israel claims that the occupied territories are juridically part of Israel. Therefore, the assumption by Israel of the right to decide which Palestinians may be residents of the occupied territories is illegal. In fact, such an assumption of power is expressly forbidden under the several international conventions concerning occupied territories. Israel, therefore, has acted illegally in excluding the right of return of ethnic Palestinians to the occupied territories and also in promoting the immigration of non-Palestinians to these territories.

Frank Collins is an American freelance journalist who divides his time between Jerusalem and Washington, D.C.

VIEW POINT

BY YACOB JABER

Whom to talk to?

THE SUSPENSION of the US-Palestinian dialogue will have serious repercussions on peace efforts in the Middle East not because the dialogue dealt with the substance of the Palestinian issue, but because its break meant that the American administration has failed its major test with Israel's new hardline government.

As a result of the US hasty decision, Israel now feels free to go ahead with its repressive policies against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, and to shun all peace initiatives. The Israelis have every reason to be delighted as they sense that President George Bush's administration backs them to the hilt, and regardless of what they do in contravention of international law and world conventions.

Apart from that, the dialogue was the sole channel of communication between Washington and the true representative of the Palestinian people. How Washington intends to pursue its so-called peace efforts in the region in the absence of the Palestinian interlocutor? What is Washington's next course of action if it fails to talk to the very people whose cause lies at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

The US Secretary of State James Baker himself admitted few hours after the decision to suspend the dialogue that it was hard to find Palestinians with whom to back without the approval of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In the meantime, Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have already decided to boycott talks with American envoys following the US veto against a UN Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of a UN mission to investigate Israeli crimes.

Washington is thus left with no one to talk to from amongst the Palestinians. It has in fact sabotaged the peace process and must be held solely responsible for the deadlock that is bound to follow and the dangers inherent in it.

However, sooner or later, the US administration will find out that it needs to resume its contact with the PLO if it is to play a key and effective role in Middle East peace endeavours.

There can never be a substitution for the PLO. Once Washington grasps this fact, the road could be open to an upgraded and serious dialogue that truly contributes to a peaceful settlement in the region.

A resumed dialogue based on a responsible attitude and seriousness on the part of the United States will be of great service to the cause of peace in the Middle East. The PLO, after all, has met all the US terms for participation on equal footing with other parties in the peace process.

Now it is the turn of the United States to fulfil its commitment, and stop being used by Israel and the Zionist lobby in their unabated endeavour to foil the genuine and sincere Palestinian peace initiatives.

THE STAR 13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Your interview with the Mayor of Amman (The Star 21 June) disheartened me. Amman has become one of the most organised and cleaner cities not only in the Arab region, but perhaps in the world. To know that the city is threatened with budget deficits and cuts in services reminds me of other big cities which have fallen prey to decay and financial constraints. I only hope the council will be able to save Ammanites from becoming no different from the dwellers of say Cairo or Rome.

Amman Lover

The Star

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THE UNITED STATES decision last Wednesday to suspend its 18 month dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) drew sharp reactions from Arab officials, political commentators and organisations. In addition to the usual newspaper editorials, Jordanian political cartoonists used up the occasion to lash at the US decision and Washington biased policies in the region.

28 JUNE 1990

Intifada games in Lebanon's camps

By Larnia Lahoud

IN THE Bourj El Barajneh refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut's southern suburbs, a gang of 20 or more boys have occupied two bombed-out buildings. They are divided into two groups, which throw stones at each other.

Haroun, 11, is the leader of one gang. "Here in the rubble we meet after school in play Intifada," he proclaims proudly.

It is not quite clear who plays the Palestinians and who plays the Israelis. Apparently, no side wants to be the Israeli "occupation force," and little Shi'ite boys from the neighbourhood often become the target of the Intifada game.

The Palestinian boys don't like the Shi'ites. Most Palestinians cannot forget the "camp war" of 1986-87, in which the pro-Syrian Shi'ite militia Amal surrounded the camps and bombed them heavily. Haroun and his gang now fight their own war with the Shi'ite boys, whom they consider "as bad as" the Israelis.

The "children of stones" — as PLO leader Yasser Arafat calls the stone-throwing youths in Gaza and on the West Bank — have become the new heroes of these young Palestinians in Lebanon.

Most of the little refugees watch TV news coverage of the Intifada with fascination — whenever there is electricity.

"The Intifada gives us pride and hope," says Wissam, Haroun's friend and classmate. "One day soon we will have a state and a passport so we can travel."

Most refugees came to the area of Bourj El Barajneh in 1948. At first they lived in tents or other provisional housing, believing the Arab promise that their exile would last a month at most. It has lasted over 40 years. Three generations of refugees are still waiting to return.

Bourj El Barajneh camp used to be a stronghold of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction which Arafat heads. Today the camp is controlled by Palestinian factions loyal to Syria. These



The "children of stones" — as PLO leader Yasser Arafat calls the stone-throwing youths in Gaza and on the West Bank — have become the new heroes of these young Palestinians in Lebanon. Most of the little refugees watch TV news coverage of the Intifada with fascination — whenever there is electricity.

groups are strongly opposed to Arafat's diplomatic initiative for a settlement with Israel.

But the camp population continues to be loyal to the PLO chairman, and many families still have a picture of "Abu Amar" hidden somewhere in their homes.

The pro-Syrian PLO dissidents aren't welcome at all. Many refugees regard them as traitors. The Israeli invasion and the Syrian troop deployment in two-thirds of the country have undermined

Arafat's influence in Lebanon.

At the entrance of Bourj El Barajneh, Syrian intelligence officers check everyone who intends to enter or leave the camp.

Haroun has been arrested several times by the camp's military police for organising the Intifada game. The arrests have only added to his popularity. Haroun wants to get married and have many children, so that the Palestinian nation will grow, he says.

Ein El Hilwe camp in South Lebanon is one of the largest refugee camps in Lebanon. There are around 100,000 Palestinians in the southern part town of Sidon, mostly in Ein El Hilwe or the smaller neighbouring Mieh Mieh camp. There, they have built a "little Palestine."

Most families grow flowers and vegetables in the backyards of their little houses or tin huts. Some raise chickens or goats. Often, entire families live in one or two rooms, but the homes are usually well cared for and clean.

Each of the Palestinian factions has a base inside Ein El Hilwe.

Young men in uniform and keffiyehs, carrying Russian-made AK-47 automatic rifles over their shoulders, sit on a street corner drinking very sweet black tea.

A military truck drives down the main street of the camp. The narrow streets are muddy, especially during the rainy season in winter, as there are no asphalt roads in the camps.

Young boys and girls in military uniform walk towards the youths' military training camp. In south Lebanon, the Palestinian youngsters do not play Intifada like their counterparts in Beirut — they play war.

Sit-ups at 5 am are not necessarily fun, but the military training is the only physical exercise these children get. There are no gyms or tennis courts in the camps. In this way, the boys make some money to help their families. And the PLO pays.

Rafea, 12, shows his little sister Indira how to ambush a checkpoint. The two are playing in front of their home on top of the hill in the Mieh Mieh refugee camp. Rafea, who studies at the UNRWA school in Ein El Hilwe, wants to be a doctor.

Rafea's father is a soldier in Fatah's military branch. The family's only income comes from the pro-Arafat militia. His mother, who came with her family from Haifa as a little girl, used to give military training to children when she was a teenager. "All my children will receive military training. We will fight to return to Palestine, even if it takes another 100 years," she says.

Rafea and his friends aren't sent into battle. For them, military training is basically a game, almost like joining the Scouts. But there are other 12-year-olds who have joined the commando units.

Hassan, 12, is guarding a PLO position in the middle of the battlefield of inter-Shi'ite fighting in south Lebanon. The PLO has deployed forces to keep two rival Shi'ite militias apart and the area around their refugee camps calm.

Born in Bourj El Barajneh, Hassan spent most of his life training to become a soldier in the army of the PLO.

Boys like Hassan are what the Israelis used to call "RPG kids," who faced Israeli tanks with rocket propelled grenades during the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Death is a daily reality in Ein El Hilwe. "It's rare to die a natural death here," says Rafea. "Most of us have someone in the family killed in an Israeli air raid or one of the many local wars."

For the Palestinian youngsters in south Lebanon the enemy — Israel — is real. Israeli bomber planes frequently overfly the refugee camps and, at times, they come to bomb PLO factions inside the refugee camps which are actively operating against Israel.

Despite their fear of Israeli air raids, many children gather on the hilltop in the Mieh Mieh camp to watch the deadly spectacle. They even bet which PLO faction's anti-aircraft gun comes closest to hitting a plane.

"It's almost like being at a horse race," says one foreign relief worker.

"When the Israelis come to bomb, I grab a bag with my belongings with one hand, my youngest daughter with the other, and start running for shelter."

"Why do you call us terrorists?" asks Rafea. "When we do an operation from south Lebanon we kill one or two Israelis; when they come to bomb they kill 10 or 15 martyrs."

Rafea is enthusiastic about the Intifada, and Arafat's declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

"All of Palestine is originally ours," says Rafea. "But if they only want to give us the West Bank and Gaza — OK, we agree. At least, we would have our own state."

Insight

Dr. Nabil Al-Sharif

Quake diplomacy

THE DEVASTATING earthquakes that shook Iran over the last few days were tragic in every sense of the word. They left behind thousands of dead, injured, lost or displaced people. It is not coincidental, however, that Arab countries like Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the first to rush aid to the victims of this horrifying catastrophe. This proves beyond doubt that Muslim solidarity is alive and well, and nothing will ever affect it.

One cannot help but feel extremely uncomfortable when one even hints at ways of capitalising on this very unfortunate disaster to mend the rift between Iran and the Arab world which was caused by the bloody eight-year war between Iraq and Iran. But if such an end were to materialise, then the relatives of the victims should feel consoled that their loved ones have not died in vain. Their tragic end has helped, in a very unfortunate, painful way, solidify Muslim ranks and has contributed to creating a stronger sense of oneness and unity among the various Muslim countries.

It has also become very clear nowadays that the Arab world and Iran are facing the same enemies and the same challenges. The unfortunate eight-year war between Iraq and Iran has only benefited the enemies of both parties, and has weakened the Muslim nation and strengthened its detractors.

The Arab world and Iran should be on the lookout now for fear that enemies of Islam (who must feel edgy now with this rapprochement between the two parties) might be plotting something to derail this growing solidarity and meeting of minds within Muslim ranks. It is quite realistic to say that many parties who were able to single out various Muslim countries in the past with various designs and plots will not feel happy about this prospect of unity, and that they will exert their utmost efforts to block any unity or solidarity between Muslim powers, especially Iraq and Iran.

When Iraqi President Saddam Hussein decided to send a letter to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani inviting him to accept the idea of holding direct talks between the two leaders, it was suggested that President Hussein was acting out of a sense of suspicion that some international circles are either blocking, or not doing enough, to facilitate the UN-sponsored talks between the two countries.

Cruel and painful as it may sound, the catastrophe of the Iranian quake should open the way for candid and constructive talks not only between Iraq and Iran, but also between Iran and all Arab countries.

28 JUNE 1990

Fighting the stigma of AIDS

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

AIDS HAS involved not one but three successive global epidemics, according to Dr Jonathan Mann, the former director of the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on AIDS. The first epidemic is the largely hidden and rapidly accelerating spread of HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

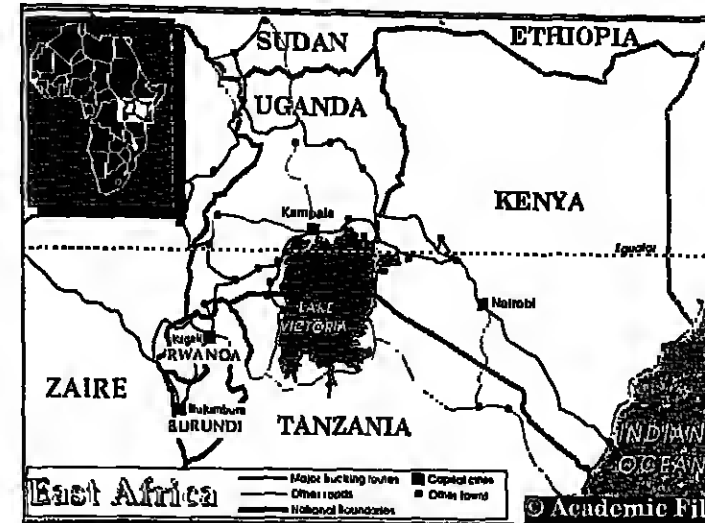
Dr Jonathan Mann explains that the steady rise in cases of AIDS worldwide is the second epidemic. The WHO expects possibly as many as five million people to have died or fallen ill from this spread of the disease by the end of the century.

The third epidemic is the denial, blame, stigmatisation and discrimination which the fear of AIDS brings out in individuals and societies. These repercussions have been found in virtually every society affected by the virus.

American writer Susan Sontag believes that attitude is important. She is scathing about the prejudices the disease provokes. "AIDS and Its Metaphors", published by Penguin Books, is her powerful discourse on the ways in which language and culture have influenced our view of the AIDS epidemic.

"AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — is not the name of an illness at all. It is the name of a medical condition, whose consequences are a spectrum of illnesses," she asserts. "In contrast to syphilis and cancer, which provided prototypes for most of the images and metaphors attached to AIDS, the very definition of AIDS requires the presence of other illnesses, so-called opportunistic infections and malignancies. But though not in that sense a single disease, AIDS lends itself to being regarded as one — in part because, unlike cancer and like syphilis, it is thought to have a single cause."

Shame and guilt are linked to



AIDS, says Sontag. The unsafe behaviour that produces the disease is judged to be more than just weakness. It is indulgence, delinquency — addictions to chemicals that are illegal and to sex regarded as deviant. "It is simply too early to conclude, of a disease identified only seven years ago, that infection will always produce something to die from, or even that everybody who has what is defined as AIDS will die from it," Sontag criticises.

The author explains that some medical writers believe that AIDS may not be a uniformly fatal disease. Rather, the high number of rapid deaths among those first diagnosed with AIDS might be related to a predisposition to vulnerability, including "a diminished immune competence, and genetic predisposition."

Sontag points out that the AIDS epidemic serves as an ideal projection for First World political paranoia. Not only is the so-called AIDS virus the quintessential invader from the Third World. It can stand for any mythological menace, she feels.

"AIDS did not become so famous just because it afflicts whites too, as some Africans bitterly assert. But it is certainly true that were AIDS only an Af-

rican disease, however many millions were dying, few outside of Africa would be concerned with it," she declares. "It would be one of those 'natural' events, like famines, which periodically ravage poor, overpopulated countries and about which people in rich countries feel so helpless. Because it is a world event — that is, because it affects the West — it is regarded as not just a natural disaster."

Journalist Ed Hooper has followed the progression of AIDS from Africa, specifically Uganda. "SLIM", published by the Bodley Head, is an account of Hooper's investigation into how a country which he describes as war-ravaged, still in a state of economic collapse, and with correspondingly limited health care resources is fighting an epidemic which is rife. Uganda already has to cope with regular bouts of malaria, measles, sleeping sickness, cholera, dysentery and other diarrhoeal diseases — all making demands on its inadequate health budget.

First identified in Uganda in 1982, it was not until late October 1984 that a case was medically confirmed in the country.

Serious outbreaks of sleeping sickness and bubonic plague ravaged Uganda in 1986. But a new epidemic called 'Slim' was



the talk of the capital, Kampala. "Slim" was Uganda's latest horror," recalls Hooper. "His victims seemed simply to waste away to nothingness."

He maintains that over the last twenty years Ugandans have become experts in coping with violence and suffering. They have developed a special love for euphemism and double entendre, knowing as they do the power of humour to debunk, to soothe and to heal. Thus the word 'Slim' — the shape of Western models, and the fit of fashionable men's shirts — was readily adopted as the nickname for this new and terrible phenomenon.

Hooper commends the doctors

and nurses who run Uganda's health service at a grass-roots level and who are battling tirelessly and bravely in the face of an overwhelming epidemic.

"Perhaps even more crucially, in Uganda — or at least in rural Uganda — AIDS is not treated as a stigma in the way that it still is in the 'developed' world. All over the country, men and women have eventually gone back to their home villages to spend their final months or weeks, and then to die," he says.

Uganda, a country striving to cope with the enormous adversity of AIDS, appears to have got it right on attitude.

By Helen Todd
Special to The Star

WHEN A doctor in Sydney, Australia told Mohan he had AIDS, he tried to ransack the office.

"You're lying!" Mohan screamed. "I'm a Malaysian. Asians don't get AIDS!"

Mohan's family flew him home to Malaysia and he went into a hospital, where he was examined by doctors and Health Department officials.

"They kept bugging me about my 'foreign contacts'. They wanted me to tell them I had got it from a foreigner. They just didn't want to know that I had caught it here, from another Malaysian," he said.

Mohan believes he caught the virus as a teenager from one of his Malaysian homosexual lovers. By the time he was diagnosed in Australia he already had AIDS-related complex, with weight loss and lumps in his neck.

"I got the disease because I was ignorant," admitted Mohan. "Like everyone else I thought I couldn't get it. I thought it was a Western disease."

Until recently, Malaysian officials seemed to share this com-

AIDS invades Malaysia

fortable misconception. They thought of AIDS as a foreign disease. They believed that the risk group was confined to a few homosexual men who had lived in the permissive West. It could never be a Malaysian problem. Public opinion still reflects this attitude.

The statistics supported these assumptions for most of the 1980s. A small group of haemophiliacs were infected before the Ministry of Health began screening blood in 1984. Otherwise, only two people with AIDS and seven people testing HIV-positive were detected up to January 1988, most of them homosexual men who had spent time abroad.

But a dramatic increase in the number of detected carriers has swept away these assumptions. AIDS is no longer a "foreign" disease. It is now even considered a "gay" plague. Suddenly, it is a Malaysian problem.

Although total statistics are still small, the number of detected carriers jumped eight-fold in

six months, from 26 HIV-positive people and eight AIDS cases in June 1989 to 159 people with HIV and 12 AIDS cases in January 1990.

The vast majority of recently detected carriers are heterosexual males — drug addicts using needles. A recent death was a woman who worked as a prostitute in Kuala Lumpur.

It seems Malaysia may be following in the wake of Thailand, its northern neighbour, in a dangerous pattern whereby HIV spreads initially through people sharing contaminated needles and the sex industry.

The Thai experience is that AIDS explodes among needle users once it gains a foothold. Of Malaysia tested up to September last year, 2.4 per cent tested HIV-positive. Between 20 to 25 per cent of addicts are intravenous drug users who can pass HIV through infected needles.

Malaysia does not have a sex industry as extensive and popular as Thailand's. But there is an un-

derground culture of bars and brothels in every town, intertwined with the drug trade. Most female addicts work as prostitutes, as do the wives and girlfriends of many male addicts.

An estimated 3,000 men cross the border to the brothel towns of southern Thailand every weekend — although the number of "shoppers" has dropped since the press began running stories about AIDS among Thai prostitutes.

Malaysia's social conservatism may help limit such behaviour and so lower the AIDS risk. But this conservative attitude also undermines government AIDS efforts. Condom advertisements are banned in Malaysia.

"How many people are going to die before the government is brave enough to mention the word 'condom' on TV?" asks Mohan.

Mohan was rescued from despair by a self-help group, the Pink Triangle, set up by homosexual men to provide counselling. The Pink Triangle runs an

AIDS hotline five nights a week and has already trained more than 50 volunteer counsellors, including Mohan. It arranges confidential blood tests and has a buddy system for people with AIDS.

The Pink Triangle, an articulate and cohesive group, claims to have reached most of the homosexual men in the Kuala Lumpur area.

"Most gays are now using condoms and practising safer sex. I think we have the situation under control," a spokesman said.

Mohan, working from a small flat in Kuala Lumpur, is trying to keep another 24-hour hotline open with only two volunteers. He is worried about what is happening outside the gay community.

He argues that the government must give more explicit information to the general public and more direct help to non-governmental organisations which can reach the high-risk groups.

"If government does not change its policy, AIDS will explode," he said.

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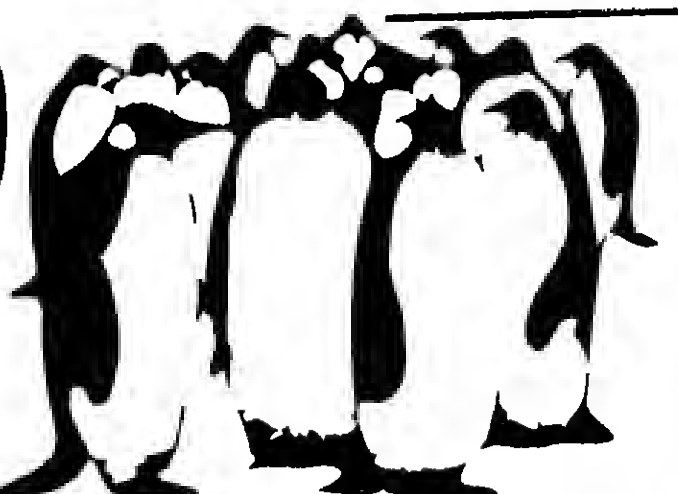
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AROUND TOWN



A jolly good show

Under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the official opening of the Al Hussein Youth City Polo Ground was held on 17 June.

The Royal Equestrian Federation in co-operation with Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental organised a turf festival which was attended by more than 3000 spectators.

Prince Hassan received the winning Polo trophy and then distributed trophies to the winners in the festival's various activities.

The festival included a jumping show and shows by police training college mounted division. The highlight of the festival was a 5 chucker polo match which was won by the Prince's team.



On the occasion of Saint Juan's Day, King Juan Carlos of Spain's day, the ambassador of Spain and Mrs Ramon Armengod held a reception on Friday. This was the first official function held on the new Spanish embassy premises which was designed by Spanish architect Carlos Gollzarrri. A lot of people were invited to see the new house and enjoy the music of a Spanish group flown in especially for this event. Those in attendance included: Prince Ra'd, Prince Faisal and Princess Alia, the French Ambassador Denis Bauchard and Mrs Genevieve Bauchard, First Secretary of the Spanish Embassy, Borja Montesino (who will be leaving Jordan in August), Marwan Al-Qasbi, Taher Al-Masri, Toufik and Marcela Nazal, and Carlos Seleme.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory Sunday presented piano solos and duets by Suzan Al Sabouni, Dr Christina Zahida Al Sabouni and Maha Kubelmi from Syria.

The programme included pieces by Beethoven, Albeniz, Haydn, Debussy and others.

Dr Al Sabouni, 26, got her first piano instruction from her

mother and later on from well known Russian professors at the Music Conservatory in Damascus. At the age of 16 she played with the Philharmonic Orchestra in Finland. In 1987, she obtained a Masters Diploma from the Cziffra Foundation. In 1988, she graduated from the faculty of medicine in Damascus. She performed in Amman in June 1989.

Mrs Al Sabouni, Christina's mother has been a piano teacher for 26 years. Her own mother is presently guest professor at the Conservatory of Music in Helsinki, Finland.

Miss Kuhlmi, a student of Mrs Al Sabouni, is the daughter of the ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Damascus.

Baby Anabelle Jane Reeve

made her mark on the world with her arrival on Saturday 16 June despite strong competition from the English and Dutch World Cup Football teams.

Parents Jo and Rod Reeve are delighted with their newly-born daughter and Anabelle's grandmother June Nesbitt has left her other new granddaughter, Lilli Jane, two week old daughter of Jo's brother Michael and his wife Robyn in South Australia, and is in Amman to make sure that everything goes smoothly in the Reeve household.

Jo and Rod would like to thank Dr Zeld Kilani and his team at the Khalidi Hospital for their help in bringing Anabelle safely into the world.

"Stone is everywhere, in the walls, on the roofs" and on virtually every slide shown Tuesday evening by architect Bilal Hammad during his lecture on traditional and contemporary architecture in Jordan and Palestine.

Hammad, speaking before an audience of more than 60 at the Goethe-Institut Amman, discussed the basic elements of rural and urban architecture. Using slides to illustrate his points, he emphasized the historical use of stone and versatility of the courtyard in the buildings of the region.

The architect also stressed the complexity of the architectural layout of urban cities such as Amman and Salt, describing the pattern of the major street filled with shops which branches off to residential side-streets, eventually reaching a dead end.

"Salt and Amman were built in the same spirit of houses climbing up the hill. The houses lie close to each other, characteristic of the urban tissue of this region," Hammad explained. "In contrast, the wider spacing in modern Amman makes every house a statement by itself, not the same tightly-knit tissue of fabric."

His lecture also included a

Scrapbook

A million dollar deal

I AM not an athletic person by nature, but I have always been a strong supporter of sports and professional athletes. Of course there are a number of advantages for being a professional athlete, one of which is becoming a highly-priced commodity. Look at the World Cup in Italy for example. Amateur players from Egypt, Costa Rica and the United Arab Emirates have become stars overnight and have been offered substantial amounts of money to play for international clubs in Europe. We are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars, even millions.

The World Cup, in addition to being the most spectacular sports event, is a sort of a stock market, a soup, for football players. But while we, sports enthusiasts, watch the games for the sheer pleasure, club owners watch for a business deal.

The life-span of a professional football player is relatively short. He starts at the young age of 18 and will play until he is 30 or 35, if he is very good. During this period, a professional player will make at least a million dollars in salaries and maybe another million for promoting sports wear and other commercial brands. So it is not such a bad deal. He stays fit, enjoys life, travels and sees the world and comes out of it a young and wealthy man. He can then sell himself as a trainer, sports writer or commentator or even get into politics.

But even this line of business has its setbacks. A player, whether in football or any other game, may break a leg or suffer a permanent serious injury that will ruin his career. Or he may lose his talent at an earlier than usual time and thus find himself out in the cold.

At any rate, it must be wonderful to be employed as a football player, teaming up with great players. I can't help smiling when I think that Maradona, Mathaeus and van Basten are all employees, just like most of us, and that they are only earning a decent living. What a job it must be. I can't imagine myself playing as a professional for Milan or Liverpool clubs and working 9 to 5 kicking the ball around, running here and there and scoring goals with my head.

But since it is too late for me to do anything about my own career, it occurred to me to steer my 2-year-old son towards becoming a professional athlete, maybe in football or tennis. Who knows, when Jordan qualifies for the World Cup, in 2002, my son will be just the right age for his first international debut. The businessmen will be there and they will be watching and maybe my son will win a million dollar contract.

Ahmad Madi



Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Zain Al Sharaf, HRH Princess Sarvath patronised the opening of the 16th annual flower exhibition of the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental on Wednesday 20 June.

The annual exhibition aims at highlighting artistic talents in arranging flowers — artificial and natural. The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit several Association projects.

brief discussion of the factors influencing contemporary architecture such as the introduction of building codes borrowed from the West, the use of the car, the training of architects at universities abroad and the opening of architecture schools in Jordan.

Hammad concluded the evening by naming some of the country's more innovative architectural designs. His favorites included the Queen Alia Heart Center, Queen Alia Airport, the Kuwaiti Embassy, the Al Manna School, and his own design, the Al Ribat housing complex.

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28 JUNE 1990

A D V E N T U R I N G Cheek by jowl with elephants in Ikavango Delta

By Laura Hohnhold

ACCORDING TO the laws of geology and climate, the Okavango Delta belongs more in, say, southern Florida than where nature put it — smack in Africa's Kalahari Desert. The Okavango, situated in northern Botswana just below the Zambian border, is the world's largest inland delta. It fans out from the Okavango River and forms a vast, 4,000-square mile marsh that would remind you of the Everglades — if the Everglades were crawling with hippos, antelope, wildebeest, giraffes and the occasional lion.

Not many people know about the Okavango Delta. Kenya and Tanzania still dominate Africa's safari industry, and only a fraction of the number of tourists to those countries find their way south to Botswana each year. Since almost 20 per cent of Botswana's total area comprises of national parks and game preserves, chances are good that you'll cross paths with fewer than a dozen Land Rovers during a two-week stay.

Botswana offers a completely different type of safari, says Mark Nolting, author of two African safari guides and president of The Africa Adventure Company, which books trips to the continent. "You can go an entire day without seeing another tour group. You're all alone with an amazing variety of wildlife — everything from desert animals to swamp birds — which is something you don't get elsewhere in Africa. You really have the feeling that you're out there exploring."

Most Botswana safaris travel the northern quarter of the country, where the landscape is more forgiving than deeper in the Kalahari, and where the wildlife is more diverse. There are three big draws to this area: Chobe National Park, Moremi Wildlife Reserve and the Okavango Delta. All lie within 200 miles of

In the Okavango Delta, it's likely that a few of the animals will drop by to check out your campsite



each other but are different enough that they seem countries apart. Chobe, located just south of Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls (virtually all guided trips make at least a pit stop at the falls), is the best spot in Botswana to get a close look at big game. Herds of roan, gemsbok, zebras and elephants gather at the Chobe River each evening, and it's likely that at least a few of the animals will drop by to check out your campsite.

"At night, we were virtually cheek-to-jowl with elephants," says Lineve McKie, a social worker at the University of Michigan who traveled to Botswana last August with an expedition company called Journeys. "They were right behind our tents, and we could hear them chewing all night long. We felt like it was just us and them in the park."

Moremi Wildlife Reserve, on the northeastern edge of the Okavango Delta, is a quirky mix of swamp, flood plain, forest and desert. What this means, of course, is that an odd assortment of animals wind up sharing liv-

ing space. In just one afternoon in Moremi, you're likely to see elephants, porcupines, impala, giraffes, crocodiles, ostriches, foxes, parrots and maybe a rhinoceros.

The wildlife isn't quite as exotic in the Okavango Delta, yet the delta is perhaps Botswana's biggest surprise, occurring as it does in a virtual wasteland. "On our approach to the Okavango Delta, all we saw was sand, for 360 degrees around us," says McKie. "The delta is an amazing contrast. You're surrounded by water, papyrus and other reeds that grow way over your head. It's very rich in bird life, and on the larger islands you can see some big animals."

The preferred mode of travel through the Okavango Delta is by dugout canoes, called "mokoros," which float so low in the water that you're practically swimming. Swimming, incidentally, is a fine thing to do in the delta (stay in shallow water and the crocs won't get you), along with bird watching and fishing. The delta is one of only three breeding grounds in southern Af-

rica for pink-backed pelicans and the only breeding ground in the world for slaty egrets. If you're a fisherman, consider visiting the delta between May and August, the best time of year to land tiger fish, bream and barbel — not exactly fighting fish, but that's probably not what will bring you to Botswana, anyway. The narrower delta channels are shallow and crystal-clear, so it's easy to spot your prospective catch; better yet, you can actually drink the water.

"I was staggered by the water," says McKie. "It was so clean we could just lean over the canoe and dip up cupfuls. Now where else in the world can you do something like that?"

The best time to visit Botswana is during its winter months, March to October, when the weather is cool and dry. Several outfitters offer tours that last from 10 days to three weeks and cost between \$1,100 and \$2,500, depending on length of stay and how luxurious a safari you're after.

Agenda

Films

● The American Center presents "Chinatown", starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, Thursday 28 June at 7:00 pm.

● The Spanish Cultural Centre presents "El Tunnel", starring Jane Seymour and Peter Weller, Thursday 28 June at 7:00 pm.

● The Goethe Institute presents "Caspar David Friedrich: Grenzen der Zeit", Saturday 30 June at 8:00 pm.

Trips

The Friends of Archaeology will organise a field trip to Wadi Ziklab, on Friday 6 July.

Exhibitions

● A collection of "Textile from Ottoman Times" is on exhibition at the Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation until Saturday 30 June.

● OUTSTANDING MIDDLE East press photographers recently displayed their works at the Jeddah showrooms of Naghi Motors, sole importers of BMW in Saudi Arabia.

The exhibition, also being staged at Naghi Motors BMW showrooms in Riyadh and Al Khobar, featured some of the best photographs from the first ever Gulf and Middle East Press Photography Awards 1989, instituted by BMW, the West German makers of luxury cars.

Naghi Motors president Mohamed Naghi told reporters at the Jeddah exhibition that BMW's commitment to excellence prompts it to support the development of arts and crafts wherever in the world the firm goes.

Around 225 photographs were on display, including the works of the three top prize winners who received cash awards, trophies and a week's all-expense paid trip to Germany — all courtesy of BMW.

Local chapter of Arab human rights group opens in Amman

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THE JORDANIAN chapter of the Arab Human Rights Organisation (AHRO) was inaugurated Saturday in Amman. The Cairo-based organisation, which has more than 2000 members, is concerned with the social, political, economic and cultural rights of the Arab citizen. The initiative for having such an Arab organisation was launched in 1983 by a group of Arab intellectuals in Limassol, Cyprus, where they discussed the worsening situation of human rights in the Arab world.

The organisation is a pressure group that gets its strength from its various branches. It has strong ties with Amnesty International (AI) and whereas the latter functions at an international level, the former deals with the Arab world in particular.

In a press conference held at

the organisation's Amman headquarters, president of AHRO Mr Adib Al Jablri said the organisation's board of trustees held a three day extraordinary session in Amman and discussed a number of topics including the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

AHRO is funded by donations and annual memberships of JD 25 per person. Chairman of the Amman office is Mr Najeeb Rashdan and the vice-president is Mrs Lella Sharaf. Other board members include Mr Anis Mou'asher, Mr Amin Shuquah, Mr Leith Shubellat, Mr Fakhrul Bulbela, and Mr Hamad Al Farhan. In an interview



Lella Sharaf

with The Star, Mrs Sharaf thanked His Majesty King Hussein for his support. The organisation, she said, is adopting the basic principles for human rights that were put forth on the international level by the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, of which Jordan is a signatory.

As to the occupied territories, Mrs Sharaf said it is the epitome of the infringement on human rights. "Since we are a frontline state we are very concerned with this matter." On the local level, Mrs Sharaf said that "due to the now democratic atmosphere (in Jordan), we will probably not have many cases for action. Thus, we can concentrate our efforts and work on the violations of human rights in the occupied territories."

Any citizen over 21 years of age can become a member provided that he or she complies with its regulations.

THE STAR 17

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Tremors, slips and earth slides

Living along the Great Divide

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The devastating earthquake which jolted a large area of northern Iran last Thursday killing at least 50,000 people and wounding more than 100,000 was recorded on the Jordan University Seismological Station (UNJ) with a 7.1 magnitude (Richter Scale), says Dr Zuhair El-Isa of the Geology Department, University of Jordan. Three other shocks were also recorded within the following 14 hours with magnitudes 5.8, 5.4 and 5. Such tremors are enough to cause massive destruction. Any tremor with a magnitude above 5 on the open-ended Richter scale is considered destructive.

Earthquake activity in Iran may be related to earthquake activity in the Arab region. The so-called "Arabian Plate" is bordered in the northwest by the Jordan-Dead Sea transform which runs over more than 1000 km from the Gulf of Aqaba to Southern Turkey. The geodynamic situation in the Red Sea region causes the opening and

continuous widening of the Red Sea at a rate of not less than 1 cm/year, which ultimately causes the movement of the Arabian plate in a northeastern direction. This movement results in the sliding of the Arabian plate versus the Palestine/Sinai plate and the subduction of this plate beneath both Iran and Turkish plates, such movements are the major cause of earthquakes, explained Dr El-Isa.

The ancient Jordan-Dead Sea System has witnessed numerous moderate-to-strong earthquakes, 19 of which have occurred within the last 20 centuries with magnitudes "greater than or equal to 6 on the Richter scale."

The epicentral concentration of these earthquakes is along the transform and other regional branching faults. The latest of these is the famous Palestine earthquake of 1927 (magnitude 6.25) which occurred some

Jordan-Dead Sea transform has been widely accepted by earth scientists," writes Dr El-Isa and Dr. H. Mustafa in their paper on "Earthquake deformations in the Lisan deposits and seismotectonic implications." "This shear resulted in the creation of local depressions of different sizes along the whole transform."

The two scientists explain that the Dead Sea "occupies one of the largest and deepest of these depressions which is bordered from the west and east by the Jericho and Araba strike-slip faults."

These strike-slip faults are most likely the major source of earthquakes in this region, including the devastating quake of Palestine in

Archaeological evidence of earthquakes in Jordan

By Kenneth W. Russell
Special to The Star

THE NATURAL danger posed by earthquakes has been a fact of life throughout Jordan's ancient past, according to recent archaeological and historic research. Evidence of the disastrous and often tragic effects of earthquakes has been uncovered during excavations at several major archaeological sites in the country. Associated research involving ancient historic texts has similarly revealed numerous references and descriptions of the actual earthquakes which affected the country.

Near the northeast corner of the modern port-resort of Aqaba, archaeological excavations con-

archaeological evidence for the destructive effects of ancient earthquakes has also been uncovered by American and Australian teams at the site of ancient Pella (Tabaqat Fihl). French archaeologists working at Jarash, German and Danish archaeologists working at Gadara (Umm Qays), and an American team working at Umm al-Jamal. At all of these sites, specific cases of destruction evidence have been identified as being the result of the disastrous earthquake

of A.D. 748, with earlier instances of destruction and rebuilding possibly relating to earlier earthquakes.

Coupled with similar destruction evidence discovered during archaeological excavations at Tell Hesban (near Madaba), Mount Nebo, Araq el-Emir (on the Wadi Seir), and the Amman citadel, it is apparent that earthquakes have played a prominent role in the urban history of ancient Jordan. Similar evidence has also been found during archaeological excavations in Palestine, reflecting the broad regional scope of the destruction wrought by these ancient earthquakes.

The cumulative historic and archaeological evidence indicates that Jordan and Palestine were subject to a series of highly destructive earthquakes in the ancient past, the best documented of which are those of A.D. 113/114, 363, 551, 748, and 1068. Other earthquakes also occurred during these periods which are currently less well documented, including quakes in the years A.D. 306, 419, 502, 633 and 659.

Scholars suggest that further archaeological and textual research will help to clarify and expand this emerging record of ancient earthquakes in Jordan.

While it is known from geological studies that an earthquake along the Jordan Rift Valley of around six points on the Richter Scale is possible in the near future, the ability to predict the approximate timing of such a quake is still very difficult. Having a more accurate long-term record of ancient earthquakes will ultimately aid in this scientific effort. Studies of variations in the different effects of earthquakes on specific forms of ancient architecture may also help in designing structures for the future. Even with our present understanding, however, one thing appears certain: From a scientific perspective, it is not a question of "if," but "when" the next major earthquake will occur.

The writer is a professional archaeologist.

25 kilometres north of the Dead Sea. "Stratigraphic and structural evidence for some 107 kilometres left-lateral shear along the

1927 and the historic earthquake of A.D. 747/748.

A study made by Dr. El-Isa on the earth's activity that occurred in the period 1981-1987 along the Jordan-Dead Sea System reveals that of the 285 earthquakes that struck (ranging in magnitude from 3 to 5), 118 of these belong to the Gulf of Aqaba swarm of 1983. In the area north of latitude 23 degrees-30 degrees, earthquakes epicentred within the transform were responsible for the release of about 79 per cent of the total energy released from all earthquake activity of this region.

The largest instrumental earthquake (6.25) occurred in 1927, north of the Dead Sea. The second largest (5.4) occurred in the southern Dead Sea region in 1956. A 5 magnitude earthquake occurred in 1979 and seven earthquakes (M4.5-5) took place between 1981 and 1987.

"The last earthquake that occurred in this area had a 3.5 magnitude some 180 km north-east of Amman two days ago. This was epicentred on the well-known basaltic floors of the region. The same flows experienced a 5-magnitude earthquake last year.

Major tectonic elements of the Jordan-Dead Sea Transform region are presently active. Seismological, geological and tectonic studies indicate a continuous stress build-up affecting the rocks of the region.

Studying past earthquakes including both historical and pre-historical activities is essential for the evaluation of seismic risk in any region. Such studies are helpful for the evaluation of present activity which requires continuous monitoring.

Regarding the Iranian quakes, Dr. El-Isa noted that plate movements are complex due to the fact that these are caused by hidden geodynamic processes. "In every case it is not necessary that if an earthquake occurred in Iran today, another one will occur here in Jordan", concludes Dr. El-Isa.

Should an earthquake hit the country.....

By a Star Staff Writer

"MOST BUILDINGS in Amman will crumble to the ground and the city will suffer extensive damage should a major earthquake hit the country," according to Dr Adel Tayem, assistant professor of structural engineering at the University of Jordan. Dr Tayem said that people in Jordan rarely take precautions against earthquakes when building their houses, and even the building codes that are adopted in the country were not based on thorough research in Jordan and need to be updated. No large scale research has ever been carried out on the behaviour of buildings in Jordan in the event of an earthquake hitting the country, according to Dr Tayem who said that "we are totally ignorant of the situation," but believed that buildings in the country are definitely not designed to resist tremors. He said that it was not possible to reinforce all buildings in Jordan against tremors, but called for ensuring that public facilities such as hospitals and school buildings could withstand earthquakes because such buildings will be needed in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

The American-educated civil engineer said that there was an urgent need for conducting research on the resistance of buildings in Jordan to earthquakes, noting that while advanced countries demand that an accelerometer, a device used to measure strong motion record, is installed in each tall building, there is not one accelerometer in Jordan.

He said that the University of Jordan, the Engineers Association and the Royal Scientific Society should be provided with funds to carry out surveys on the ability of buildings in Jordan to withstand earthquakes, and the practical precautions that should be included in the building codes.

He said that the objective of the precautions would not be to ensure complete resistance to tremors, but to ascertain that no heavy structural damage takes place.

Jordan has a major fault running along the whole length of the country, represented by Wadi Arab and the Jordan Valley (see related article). Archaeological excavations and historical records, especially those of the medieval Arab historians and geographers, provide graphic descriptions of several earthquakes and their effects. There are also many historical buildings in the country that have managed to survive the major earthquake year of 1927.

A study of such records may offer guidelines to methods of construction that have succeeded to withstand earthquake damage, as well as those that did not, according to one expert.

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28 JUNE 1990

THE STAR 5

Bedouin Women Boom as Traders

by Mary Knwar
Special to The Star

AMMAN — A new class of shrewd businesswomen are spattering the streets of Amman — and they aren't coming from the classrooms of the University of Jordan. Instead, they are Bedouin women, often illiterate, who are capitalizing on the urban elite's love for pottery, embroidered cushions, woven rugs and other antique handicrafts.

Peddling these crafts for profit has now replaced the traditional domestic task of producing these pieces, creating a new business market for a growing number of Bedouin women.

"I cannot stop working just as other people cannot stop smoking," admits 45-year-old Um Ahmad. "I have my business even if I have enough savings."

Um Ahmad, who asked that her real name not be used, was a seamstress before becoming a trader. A twelve-year veteran of the business, she began trading in develop more financial independence after her husband took a second wife.

This astute businesswoman started by selling her relatives' handicrafts through an antique dealer in downtown Amman. Slowly, she cultivated professional relationships with major dealers in the capital and eventually edged her way in with the private collectors. She now gets many of her pieces from her journeys into the villages of Northern Jordan and claims to know everyone with the slightest interest in handicrafts.



"I know what they want and I know the price they will pay," Um Ahmad boasts.

A founding member of the Jordan Crafts Development Centre explains that though the organization's objectives are developing and promoting local crafts production, their customers are especially attracted to the antique handicrafts.

"These crafts represent a part of our culture that is disappearing," explains the JCDC spokesman. "They are also better

made than the crafts of today. The craftsmanship of the past does not compete with modern crafts production. It stands in a class of its own."

Um Ahmad's bookkeeping procedures seem almost as archaic as the antique crafts she sells. Because she is illiterate, she hires the truck driver who transports her wares to keep her accounts. The driver records in a book, by hand, each item sold, the price, the money received, and the name of the buyer. At

the end of each selling day, the driver returns the notebook to Um Ahmad who puts it underneath her pillow for safekeeping.

Her monthly income ranges from JD100-250, which she uses to support her eight children. However, her husband's new family does not receive any of this income, but Um Ahmad's co-wife and her five children depend on her for their daily meals.

Um Ahmad is a discriminating saleswoman, but she also possesses a sense of compassion for her husband whom she claims is unsuccessful. She hires him occasionally to work alongside the truck driver as a porter of heavy items. She pays him 10 JD — half as much as the driver — for a day's work and treats the two men to lunch on the way home to Suf, near Jarash.

Most salespeople of traditional handicrafts seem to be women and these demographics are not entirely coincidental. Much of the merchandise comes from women's trousseaus and their households, giving females a distinct advantage. Women such as Um Ahmad have greater access to other ladies and possess a greater knowledge of items that are owned by women in their community.

Um Yasser, a 60-year-old Palestinian refugee living in Hal Nazzal, has been in the trading business for nine years. (She also did not give her real name). She began trading after leaving home because of an abusive fight over vegetable money with her unemployed husband.

"I stayed with a friend who informed me about this business," Um Yasser recounts. "She was kind, but she did not want me taking her customers. She would take me with her to houses in areas I was not familiar with in roundabout ways so that I would not be able to go back alone."

Nevertheless, Um Yasser successfully learned the art of trading. Along with her two daughters, she embroiders and restores old handicrafts so that they can be sold at higher prices. She also does rounds in the Palestinian refugee camps to find the traditional crafts.

Unlike Um Ahmad, she cannot afford to buy these items. Instead, she and the owner agree on the price in advance and she leaves her passport or a gold bracelet with the owner as collateral.

Subsequently, her profit is a small sum of money that the buyer and seller add up for her — usually a dinar or two from each end.

"In order to live, one has to be satisfied with little," Um Yasser says of her work. However, she is more ambitious for her daughters whom she is supporting through community college.

Though Um Yasser and Um Ahmad are only two members of this self-made class of women traders, all have one thing in common — they have skillfully adapted to the changing times and are benefitting from changing market needs.

'Our past, their future' walk pays off

TWO YEAR old Ahmad Hassan has a new foot and can now walk. Khawla, 10, also has a new artificial limb and can continue to attend school at Baqa'a camp, while a leg operation for Ramadan has strengthened his limbs and regular physiotherapy should help him to walk more easily. All three children, among others, have benefited directly from the funds raised during the "Our Past, Their Future" sponsored walk held last November by the Friends of Archaeology (FOA).

The FOA had a double aim in mind with the walk; first to raise awareness of Jordan's archaeological treasures and, second, to help the children in the centres for the disabled in the Baqa'a, Husun, Jerash and Suf refugee camps. The centres offer services to both mentally and physically handicapped children and the FOA wanted to raise money that would be used very specifically for medical care and the provision of equipment that would have a major impact on individual children.

Cheques for JD 1700 have been handed to the centres and the money has been made to go a long way. So far JD 918 has been used for appliances for sixteen patients including both the limbs of Khawla and Ahmad Hassan and 11 braces and 14 pairs of medical boots. Most of these have been for children but two adults have also been helped including multiple sclerosis sufferer Ahmed Saleh who has now become a teacher at the centres.

Blind students have benefited from a donation of JD 180 to the Friendship Association for the Blind which will use the money for the purchase of a tape recorder and braille typewriter to train the blind at the refugee camps in secretarial and office skills. A further JD 200 enabled a young refugee to travel to Jerusalem for a vital eye operation at St John's Ophthalmic Hospital.

For Wala, a bright-eyed young girl who has been ill since birth, JD 128 was enough to pay for a complete medical check to reveal the cause of her illness and put her on the way to correct treatment.

The FOA and the children in the centres for the disabled are very grateful to ANZ Grindlays Bank, Aramex International Couriers, Dar el-Kimneh,



Khawla can now continue to attend school (above), many other children still await help

Franz Reidel, GCE, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental, Larissa Najjar, National Marketing and Export Co., Rania Juice, Royal Jordanian, Sabeel Water, Safeway International, YESCO, UNRWA, the University of Jordan, Al-Waha Restaurant and Zira Co. for their support for last year's walk.



28 JUNE 1990

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Programmes on Jordan Television from 30 June to 6 July

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Empty Nest: Erica plays the role of a matchmaker beautifully. She wants Dr Weston for her mother and does a good job at it.
9:00 - Encounter: hosted by Rami Khouri.
9:30 - Classical Music.
9:45 - News in English.
10:00 - World Cup (live).
11:45 - Allo... Allo (comedy).

SUNDAY

8:30 - Hey Dad: Martin does his best to get rid of his secretary to little avail... his family has already fallen for her, especially since she is a good housekeeper.
9:10 - The Big Heat: Carbonic gases ascending from factories will eventually lead to the warming of the earth's atmosphere. This documentary discusses the dangerous consequences of this phenomenon.
9:45 - News in English.
10:00 - World Cup (live).

MONDAY

8:30 - Perfect Strangers: Balki is winning every bet he places on football games. Larry wants to do the same, but ends up \$10,000 in the red, a very high price for jealousy.
9:10 - Murder, She Wrote: A Bulgarian diplomat is murdered and Jessica is accused... but the real criminal, who calls himself "Cobra" get caught as he picks up the pay-off.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Tales from Hollywood: Julie used to be a famous showgirl and now she wants to get back in the limelight. When she receives help from the right people her ego blinds her mind and she is left alone again.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Golden Girls: Diamond bandits move into the neighbourhood and become the neighbours of our four heroines. The police move in and the girls have to help catch the bandits.
9:10 - A Horseman Riding By.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Varieties.
10:45 - Feature Film (The Last of the Fast Guns): A rich businessman hires a professional gunman to locate his brother who has been missing for 20 years. When the gunman finds him in Mexico, he learns a few new things about life.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - You Rang M' Lord.
9:10 - Women in Politics.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Varieties.
10:45 - Stardust: Antonio finds his way to the Royal Court, but it doesn't make him any richer. His wife dies of an illness. Antonio remarries, settles down happily, and now he wants to teach his son his skill.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World: Prep



Midnight Caller, Friday at 9:10 pm

arations are underway to elect a home coming queen at Hillman. Denise wants the title, but an unlikely personality wins instead. Denise, undaunted, starts thinking about winning next year's contest.
9:00 - Dolphin Cove: When Lisa learns the true purpose of Mike's Dolphin experiments, she gets angry and starts plotting against Alison and Trent.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Movie of the Week (Double Victory): The true story of a famous Italian football player who has a weak heart. When a marathon athlete dies in a car accident his heart is given to Severio who, out of gratitude, wins the marathon contest to glorify the name of the late marathon hero.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Didi's Comedy Show: The gang, mistakingly kidnaps the goalkeeper of a famous football team, thinking he is Didi. Unfortunately, the poor team loses the football game.
9:10 - Midnight Caller: Jack is accused of murder and the false testimony of a thief does not make proving his innocence any easier.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Anything More Would Be Greedy: The story of 6 college friends who go on to lead very different, but intertwined lives after graduation.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:45 - Le monde est a vous (variety programme).
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Le 10ème festival mondial du cirque de Paris.

SUNDAY

5:55 - Denver le dernier d'oussor: Cartoons for children.

6:20 - Les pêcheurs du golf d'Oman (documentary).
6:35 - Ca c'est du cinema (documentary).
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - French Varieties.

MONDAY

6:10 - L'homme et la nature: A documentary about arid lands.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - The Weekly Sports Magazine.

TUESDAY

5:50 - Espace francophone (Documentary).
6:20 - Des chiffres et des lettres (game show).
6:40 - Tel pere tel fils (comedy).
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A local magazine by Saleh Madi.

WEDNESDAY

5:30 - L'ami Maupassant/ Madame Baptiste (drama).
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - A documentary to be announced later.

THURSDAY

5:45 - Mollerissimo/10 (cartoons).
6:10 - Des chiffres et des lettres.
6:30 - La chance aux chansons (variety programme).
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - French Varieties.

FRIDAY

5:30 - Thank you Satou: A French feature film, starring Carole Laure and Patrick Chesnais. Nathalie attempts to bring her separated parents back together.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - La révolution de l'intelligence: A new documentary relating the history of science.

ROGER EBERT: ON MOVIES

"Dick Tracy"

RATING:★★★★

"DICK TRACY" WAS the first comic strip I encountered after outgrowing funny animals. What struck me was that the physical appearance of the characters always mirrored their souls or occupations. They looked like what they were, and what you saw was what you got, from the square-jawed Tracy barking into his wrist radio, to Pruneface, Flattop and the others.

Warren Beatty's production of "Dick Tracy" approaches the material with the same fetishist gleam I felt while reading the strip. The Tracy stories didn't depend on plot — they were too spun-out for that. Of course, they didn't depend on suspense, either — Tracy always won. Instead, they were about the interaction of these grotesque people doomed by nature to wear their souls on their faces.

We see this process at work in one of the film's first scenes, where a poker game is in progress, and everyone around the table looks like sideshow attractions. The villains range from Little Face, whose features are at the middle of a sea of dissipation, to the Brow, always deep in shallow thought.

Another opening shot establishes, with glorious excess the Tracy universe. The camera begins on a window and pulls back and moves up until we see the skyline of the city, and then it seems to fly through the air, turning as it moves so that we sweep above an endless urban vista. Skyscrapers, bridges, tenements and elevated railways crowd each other in the distant horizon, until we realise this is the grandest and most squalid city that ever was. It's more than a place. It's the distillation of the idea of city — in the vast, brooding, mysterious metropolis spreading in all directions forever, concealing millions of lives and secrets.

And then the camera dives in on one of those buildings. As we see people again we realize that everything we have seen before — every skyscraper, every bridge — was created in a movie studio.

"Dick Tracy" is a masterpiece of studio artificiality, of matte drawings and miniatures and optical effects. It creates a world that never could be. There is a scene where a giant locomotive roars down upon the fleeing figure of a small boy, and he jumps in front of it and we actually flinch. The whole fearsome train is actually a model and the running figure has been combined with it in an optical process, but don't tell that to anyone watching the movie because he won't believe you.

Into this theatre of the night comes striding the peculiar figure of a man in a yellow hat and a yellow raincoat — Dick Tracy. When Chester Gould first conceived him all those years ago, did it seem unlikely that a police detective would wear yellow? Maybe not, since Tracy didn't live in a city but in a comic strip, and the primary colours had to jump off the page.

Beatty's decision to shoot "Dick Tracy" only in the seven basic colours of comic strips is a good one, because this is a movie about creatures of the imagination, about people who live in rooms where every table lamp looks like a Table Lamp and every picture on the wall represents only a Picture on the Wall. It was necessary for Tracy to wear the essence of a hat and coat, and so, of course, they were yellow. Anything less would have been too ordinary.

Tracy in the comics was always an enigma, a figure without emotion or complexity. Warren Beatty plays his Tracy as a slightly more human figure, a cop who does have a personality, however slight. To the degree that the human side of Tracy peeks through, I believe, the character is diminished. The critics who have described Tracy as too shallow have missed the entire point, which is that we are not talking about real people here, but about archetypes. Tracy should be as square as his jaw.

Surrounding him are the characters who provide the real meat of the movie. The scene-stealer is Big Boy Caprice, played by Al Pacino with such grotesque energy that we seem to have stumbled on a criminal from Charles Dickens.

Consider the scene where Big Boy rehearses the chorus line in his nightclub. He dashes and darts behind the girls, pushing them, slapping them, acting more like a dog trainer than a choreographer.

In the shadows around Big Boy are a gallery of other human grotesqueries — characters who have been named for their physical abnormalities, like Lips Manilla and Shoulders, or for other handicaps, like Mumbles (Dustin Hoffman), who talks so fast he cannot be heard. Because these characters are glimpsed rather quickly, their makeup can be more bizarre. The characters who are on screen all the time look more normal; among them are the two women in Tracy's life, the faithful Tess Trueheart (Glenn Headley) and the seductive Breathless Mahoney (Madonna).

Last summer's "Batman," a movie I found disappointing, was at least a triumph of special effects — of set design and art direction. "Dick Tracy," a sweeter, more optimistic film, outdoes even "Batman" in the visual departments. Every frame contains some kind of artificial effect. An entire world has been built here, away from the daylight and the realism of ordinary city streets.

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COMICS

calvin and hobbes

MY LIFE COULD BE A LOT BETTER THAN IT IS.

LIFE IS LIKE TOPOGRAPHY, HOBBS. THERE ARE SUMMITS OF HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS...

...FLAT STRETCHES OF BORING ROUTINE...

...AND VALLEYS OF FRUSTRATION AND FAILURE...

BUT I'M DEDICATING MYSELF TO EXPERIENCING ONLY PEAKS! I WANT MY LIFE TO BE ONE NEVER ENDING ASCENSION!

EACH MINUTE OF EVERY DAY SHOULD BRING ME GREATER JOY THAN THE PREVIOUS MINUTE!

I SHOULD ALWAYS BE SAYING, 'MY LIFE IS BETTER THAN I EVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE, AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO IMPROVE.'

I'M JUST GOING TO JUMP FROM PEAK TO PEAK! I'M... WHOOPS.

AT LEAST WITH FLAT PLACES, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO DOWN.

ONLY LOSERS GO DOWN! FOR ME IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE UP AND UP!

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON

The evolution of Medusa's hair

Tapeworms in a cow's stomach

Someone for everyone

"Wall, Donald - forgot your sun block, I see."

Suddenly, the door was flung open, and with roasting rays and noise flying, wild hyenas dragged him away.

"OK, John, this guy you want me to go out with - he lives alone, he doesn't have any friends and he has a slight clothing problem. He's not a rogue, is he?"

"Again? Criminal! How many times did I have a tortoise over the fence?"